



Democratic Alliance: Ngwathe Local Municipality

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MEMORANDUM:

Urgent Action Needed: Restoring Water Supply to Heilbron

To: The Executive Mayor, Victoria de Beer Mthombeni

Ngwathe Local Municipality

8 May 2024

From: Democratic Alliance Caucus Ngwathe Local Municipality

Dear Mayor Mthombeni,

Ensuring Access to Clean Water: Vital for Heilbron's Well-being

Heilbron, a vibrant community nestled within Ngwathe Local Municipality, thrives on the promise of clean, accessible water. The provision of clean drinking water is not just a basic necessity; it's a cornerstone of public health, economic prosperity, and social stability.

It sustains our households, nourishes our crops, and fuels our industries. Without adequate water, the fabric of our community unravels, leaving us vulnerable to a myriad of challenges. Therefore, the imperative to safeguard our water supply isn't merely a bureaucratic duty—it's a moral obligation to uphold the dignity and welfare of every resident.

In South Africa, water rights are enshrined in law, and the country's Human Rights Commission mandates that government must provide a minimum (1) 'At least 6000 litres of free water per household at a flow rate of no less than 10 litres per minute, within 200 metres of a stand, and safe for human consumption': (2) 'A toilet or ventilated pit latrine which is safe, reliable and environmentally sound, easy to keep clean, provides privacy and protection against the weather, well ventilated, keeps smells to a minimum and prevents entry of flies and other disease-carrying pests'; and (3) 'No consumer can be without water for more than seven days per year.'



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Sadly, the reality for many, including the most marginalised communities, does not reflect these goals, with the state lacking the capacity to provide these most basic of provisions.

Access to clean drinking water is a fundamental constitutional right of all citizens, and Ngwathe Local Municipality is bound by law to ensure its provision to residents,

- WHEREAS the water supply from the Rand Water Board (RWB) to Heilbron is currently curtailed as a measure to recover outstanding debts amounting to nearly R70 million for bulk water purchases,
- AND CONSIDERING the imminent threat of even harsher restrictions on water flow by RWB, as recently announced,

THEREFORE, we urgently implore you to:

- **Initiate Immediate Debt Negotiations:** Take proactive leadership in negotiating a settlement agreement with RWB to avert exacerbating water shortages in our community.
- **Restore Normal Water Supply:** Ensure the prompt resumption of normal water flow to Heilbron without further delay.

FREEDOM. FAIRNESS. OPPORTUNITY. DIVERSITY.



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We believe that swift and decisive action on these fronts is imperative to mitigate the adverse effects of water scarcity on our residents and safeguard their well-being.

COMPILED and submitted by:

Cllr Robert Ferendale

Cllr Joseph Mbele

and residents of Heilbron

Received By:

Signed:

Signed:
