



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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18 October 2024

Hon. A. T. Didiza
Speaker of the National Assembly
Houses of Parliament
CAPE TOWN

By e-mail

Dear Madam Speaker,

REQUEST FOR A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE TO BE PLACED ON THE ORDER PAPER FOR DISCUSSION (RULE 130)

The looming water crisis in various provinces, particularly Gauteng, risks leaving millions of South Africans without this basic resource. This serious matter requires Parliament's urgent attention since the threat is imminent.

It can be argued that these water issues have been ongoing for several months, if not years. However, this has been made urgent by the media statement of Rand Water dated 12 October 2024 (attached hereto) wherein the water board states that *"Rand Water would like to alert communities, particularly Gauteng, that water storage could soon be depleted if municipalities do not implement our recommendations. It is essential to act now to prevent the impending disaster"*.

Rand Water supplies Gauteng, the Free State, North West Province and Mpumalanga. It is therefore of national importance, and not only confined to one province. The impending depletion of those water resources is much more specific than the general state of water shortage across the country and urgent intervention, particularly by the National Water Task Team, headed by the Deputy President, is required.

I can confirm that the matter is, to the best of my knowledge, not currently the subject of any court action and therefore the sub judice rule does not apply.

In light of the above, I would like to request that the imminent water crisis in the country be placed on the Order Paper for discussion as a matter of public importance.

Your urgent response in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George Michalakis MP
Chief Whip: Democratic Alliance