



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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20 January 2025

His Worship GZ Malembe
Executive Mayor of Umvoti Municipality
41 King Dinuzulu Street
Greytown
3250

Per email: mayor@umvoti.gov.za

Cc: mm@umvoti.gov.za

Dear Executive Mayor,

Re: Urgent Request to Resolve Water Crisis in Esphisaneni, Ngome

I am writing to you in my capacity as a Member of Parliament following a service delivery oversight visit I conducted in Esphisaneni, Ngome, on 13 January 2025. I was deeply disturbed to discover that the community has been without water for several months.

During my visit, I was informed that the motors used to supply water from the JoJo tanks, which are fed by the water reservoir or irrigation system, were removed by the municipality several months ago. This action has left the residents completely without water. What exacerbates this dire situation is the absence of water tankers or any alternative means of supplying water to the community. This is both inhumane and unacceptable.

In addition, I learned that the community is forced to fetch water from a nearby river, which is both unclean and rapidly drying up. This presents significant health risks and further underscores the urgency of addressing this crisis immediately.

The residents, many of whom are indigent and reliant on social grants, are now forced to pay private individuals R500 to purchase water. This is an unfair and unsustainable burden for a vulnerable community that is already struggling to make ends meet.

As the Executive Mayor, it is your duty to ensure that the basic rights of the community are upheld, including the right to access clean and safe water. I urge you to take immediate action to resolve this crisis by:

1. Replacing or repairing the motors needed to restore water supply from the JoJo tanks.
2. Providing water tankers or alternative water delivery systems in the interim.
3. Implementing long-term measures to ensure the sustainability and reliability of the water supply in Esphisaneni.

Please be advised that I will continue to monitor this situation and engage with the affected community to ensure that their concerns are addressed. Given the gravity of this matter and its impact on public welfare, this letter and its contents will be shared with the community and other stakeholders.

I trust that you will treat this matter with the urgency it deserves and provide a prompt response detailing the steps your office will take to resolve the water crisis in Esphisaneni.

Yours faithfully,

Mlondi Mveli Mdluli

Member of Parliament