



EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

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The South African Constitution guarantees access to water as a fundamental human right—this right is for everyone.

Honourable Speaker, the ongoing water crisis in the western parts of Buffalo City continues to affect our most vulnerable communities.

For months, residents of Kaysers Beach, Kidds Beach, and Ncerha villages 2, 3 & 4 have endured an inconsistent water supply.

Years of neglect and poor planning by Amatola Water and Buffalo City Metro have led to this crisis. Multiple stakeholders, including councillors and engineers, have repeatedly warned that failure to upgrade bulk water infrastructure to meet Buffalo City's growing population would result in disaster.

Lo and behold, the situation has reached crisis levels. These communities, like many others serviced by Amatola Water, now rely on rotating water supply as demand exceeds capacity.

To make matters worse, Buffalo City Metro and Amatola Water continue to send conflicting messages, adding to the frustration of struggling residents. When communication does happen, it is vague, inconsistent, and often misleading—fueling anger rather than providing solutions.

Meanwhile, instead of investing in proper infrastructure, BCM has massively overspent on hiring water tankers, a short-term and unreliable solution that leaves residents waiting for life's most essential resource. Millions have been poured into emergency measures, yet no real progress has been made toward fixing the root problem.

Honourable Speaker, imagine having to take turns as a community to access potable water. For these residents, it's a daily struggle.

When these communities unite to find solutions, they are met with an arrogant Executive Mayor who walks out of a stakeholders' meeting rather than answering difficult questions.

We cannot accept the suffering of our people due to Buffalo City and Amatola Water's failures. Our people deserve dignity, clean water, and a government that serves them.

If the Executive Mayor of BCM will not advocate for her residents, the Democratic Alliance will stand with them to fight for their basic rights.

MEC for COGTA, I invite you to join me in oversight so that, together with residents, we can forge a lasting solution that restores dignity to our communities.

I thank you.