



21 May 2025

**Hon. Marlaine Nair, MPL**

Chairperson: CoGTA Portfolio Committee  
KwaZulu-Natal Legislature  
Private Bag X9053  
Pietermaritzburg  
3200

Dear Hon. Nair,

**RE: REQUEST FOR AN URGENT COGTA COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE WATER  
CRISIS AND NON-RESPONSIVENESS OF ILEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

I write to you in your capacity as Chairperson of the Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) Portfolio Committee to formally petition your office to initiate an urgent inquiry into the ongoing water crisis in the iLembe District Municipality and the institution's failure to respond to a formal memorandum submitted by the Democratic Alliance (DA) on 21 April 2025.

Despite the memorandum clearly outlining the scope and urgency of the water crisis—affecting communities in KwaDukuza, Mandeni, Ndwedwe, and Maphumulo—the municipality has failed to acknowledge receipt, engage with the demands, or demonstrate any tangible steps toward remediation. This silence from the municipality is a profound abdication of constitutional and statutory duties related to the provision of basic services, as enshrined in Section 27(1)(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, which guarantees the right of access to sufficient water.

Available data reflects the dire nature of the crisis:

- Over 40% of households in the district lack reliable access to piped water.
- Water losses exceed 30%, placing iLembe among the worst-performing districts in the province.
- Several wards have gone for weeks without any water supply, relying inconsistently on tanker services that are often delayed or do not arrive at all.

This systemic failure amounts to a humanitarian crisis and raises concerns of administrative negligence, governance collapse, and possible violations of human rights. It is our considered view that the CoGTA Committee must exercise its oversight mandate in this matter without delay.

Accordingly, we request the following:

1. That the iLembe District Municipality Mayor and Municipal Manager be summoned to appear before the CoGTA Portfolio Committee to account for the institution's failure to respond to the DA's memorandum and to present a comprehensive plan of intervention to resolve the water crisis.
2. That the Committee commission a formal assessment or public hearing to investigate the structural causes of water delivery failure in iLembe, with inputs from affected communities, civil society, and the Department of Water and Sanitation.
3. That the Committee set definitive timelines for municipal compliance and response, with follow-up reporting obligations to this Legislature.

We submit this request not as a matter of political contention, but as an urgent call for accountability in the interest of public service delivery, human dignity, and social justice. The inaction by the municipality, in the face of such hardship, cannot go unexamined.

I am available to present further evidence before the Committee should you so require.

Yours sincerely,



Hon. Sakhile Mngadi, MPL  
Constituency Head – iLembe District