

Date: 4 August 2025

To:

The Director-General
National Treasury
Private Bag X115
Pretoria
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Cc:

- Minister of Finance
- Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
- Provincial Treasury – KwaZulu-Natal
- MEC for Cooperative Governance – KwaZulu-Natal

Urgent Request for National Intervention in Terms of Section 139(7) of the Constitution: Msunduzi Local Municipality

Dear Director-General,

The Democratic Alliance (DA) writes to you with grave concern regarding the continued and now deepening collapse—both administrative and financial—of the Msunduzi Local Municipality (KZN225). We strongly urge National Treasury to invoke Section 139(7) of the Constitution to assume full control of the municipality's finances, given the sustained failure of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government to intervene effectively in terms of Section 139(5).

Despite repeated warnings, oversight interventions, and public outcry, the municipality's financial position has worsened significantly. It is currently unable to:

- Meet its service delivery obligations to residents;
- Pay critical creditors and maintain infrastructure;
- Address non-compliance issues raised by the Auditor-General;
- Ensure political and administrative stability within the institution.

The Provincial Executive's inability—or unwillingness—to take meaningful action has directly contributed to this governance crisis. As the constitutional mechanisms provided in Section 139(5) have clearly failed, it is now incumbent upon the National Executive to step in without delay.

Key Indicators of Collapse:

- Irregular and wasteful expenditure continues unchecked;
- Infrastructure is deteriorating, with basic services like water and waste collection being sporadic or entirely absent in some areas;
- Political instability has rendered the council dysfunctional, with council sittings frequently collapsing and key positions either vacant or compromised;
- There has been no credible financial recovery plan successfully implemented or enforced to date.

The situation in Msunduzi is beyond provincial remediation. The residents of this city cannot continue to suffer due to political inaction and administrative paralysis. Every day that passes without decisive intervention further erodes governance, service delivery, and public trust.

We therefore call on National Treasury to:

1. Immediately invoke Section 139(7) and take over the financial functions of the Msunduzi Municipality;
2. Deploy a competent administrator to restore basic financial and service delivery systems;
3. Ensure that a credible, enforceable financial recovery plan is implemented and regularly reported on;
4. Launch a forensic investigation into years of financial mismanagement and irregular appointments.

We thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and remain available to provide any further information or documentation that may assist in your decision.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Ross Strachan
DA Caucus Leader
Msunduzi Municipality