



Provincial Legislature
Private Bag x0051 or
Independence Ave
Bhisho, 5605

EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
Member of the Provincial Legislature

Retief Odendaal, MPL
(Democratic Alliance Spokesperson on COGTA)



Tel: –
Fax: –
Cell: 082-462 0668
e-mail: retiefodendaal@telkom.sa.net

16 September 2025

To: Hon Zolile Williams MPL

MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs
Eastern Cape Provincial Government

Dear Hon MEC Williams,

RE: REQUEST FOR A SECTION 106 INVESTIGATION INTO MALADMINISTRATION AND SERVICE DELIVERY FAILURE IN NELSON MANDELA BAY MUNICIPALITY

I am writing to you to formally request that you invoke your powers under Section 106 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000, to launch an investigation into the maladministration and collapse of service delivery within the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality.

The situation with the city's streetlights is a clear and egregious example of this failure. With over 40,000 streetlights across the metro, conservatively it is estimated that 10,000 of them are non-operational. This is not a matter of a few broken bulbs; it is a systemic failure of public administration.

The original contract for streetlight repair was set aside some 15 months ago because of allegations of corruption and collusion. In those 15 months (or alternatively put, a quarter of the term of a municipal council), the City has been unable to put another streetlight contract in place. I strongly suspect that the reason for the aforesaid lack of progress with said contract is as a result of financial interest.

In addition, the unfolding crisis has also been exacerbated by the municipality's mismanagement of its resources. The city's fleet of 27 cherry pickers, essential for streetlight repairs, is almost entirely non-functional. Only 4 are operational, while 16 are in for repairs, and 7 are damaged beyond repair. This state of affairs is unacceptable and speaks to profound negligence and a potential misuse of public funds.

The failure of the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality to maintain a functional fleet and ensure a safe, lit environment for its residents is a serious dereliction of its constitutional duties. The issues of financial mismanagement, lack of accountability, and poor governance must be urgently addressed.

Therefore, I urge you to use your authority under Section 106 to:

- Appoint a qualified person to investigate the maladministration and service delivery failures, particularly concerning the maintenance fleet and infrastructure.
- Require officials to provide information and documents related to the procurement, maintenance, and repair of the cherry picker fleet.
- Ensure that those found responsible for this failure are held accountable.

As President Ramaphosa outlined earlier this week, there are a number of municipalities that deliver quality services to residents. For example, the City of Cape Town handles over 41,000 service requests during its winter period and resolves most faults within 72 hours. Similarly, the Kouga Local Municipality repaired 1,324 streetlights between June 2024 and August 2025, with a clear service charter for timely repairs. These municipalities demonstrate that effective public service is achievable with competent management and a commitment to maintaining public assets.

I have had many interactions with you regarding the state of governance in Nelson Mandela Bay and sadly, to date, have seen very little in the way of progress in the City administration.

I therefore trust that you will treat this request with the urgency it deserves and take decisive action to restore effective governance in Nelson Mandela Bay.

Sincerely,



RETIEF ODENDAAL, MPL
Shadow MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
Constituency Head: Southern and Western Suburbs NMB

Copied:

Mr. Velenkosini Hlabisa
Minister: Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA)

Cllr Rano Kayser
DA NMB Caucus Leader

Cllr Ondela Kepe
DA NMB Spokesperson for Electricity and Energy