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EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
Member of the Provincial Legislature

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29 September 2025

To: Hon Zolile Williams MPL

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

Dear Hon MEC Williams,

**RE: URGENT REQUEST FOR MEETING TO DISCUSS CRITICAL UNDERSPENDING ON
MAINTENANCE BUDGET IN NELSON MANDELA BAY**

I am writing to you on a matter of extreme urgency regarding the current state of service delivery in Nelson Mandela Bay, which appears to be collapsing due to, amongst other things, significant underspending on critical infrastructure maintenance.

As you indicated in your IQP23 Q657 (response), during the 2024/2025 financial year, the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality underspent on its repairs and maintenance budget by a staggering R152,530,210.

This failure to spend budgeted funds is directly contributing to the worsening service delivery crisis in our city, which impacts every resident and business.

With approximately 10,000 streetlights out across the city, road accidents are more likely and residents are fearing for their safety as criminals take advantage of dark streets.

Children are being forced to play in sewage-filled streets and parks, indicating a failure to maintain crucial wastewater infrastructure. 48% of the Metro's treated water is considered non-revenue in that it is unaccounted for, either lost through leaks, theft or inaccurate meters/billing.

Frequent power and water outages are causing businesses to shed jobs and putting a hammer to an already fragile economy.

This negligent failure to spend the budget on repairing and maintaining critical infrastructure is unacceptable.

This R150 million could have been used to address every single faulty streetlight, or it could have been directed towards vital upgrades of substations or wastewater treatment plants to prevent outages and spills.

Instead, this money is unlikely to be spent on service delivery and will probably have to be sent back to National Treasury.

I therefore formally request an urgent meeting with you to immediately discuss this budget and underspending crisis and any plans to resolve this unfolding disaster in NMB, which should include an assessment of the Section 154 intervention which does not seem to be stopping the governance decay.

I look forward to your response to this request within seven (7) days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,



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

Copied:

Cllr Rano Kayser
DA NMB Caucus Leader