



Provincial Legislature
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EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
Member of the Provincial Legislature

Retief Odendaal, MPL
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14 January 2026

TO: Hon. Pemmy Majodina, MP
Minister Of Water And Sanitation
PER EMAIL: pmajodina@parliament.gov.za

And

Dr. Sean Phillips
Director General Water And Sanitation
PER EMAIL: MdakaneP@dws.gov.za

Dear Honorable Minister Majodina and Dr Phillips

RE: UNFOLDING WATER CRISIS NELSON MANDELA BAY (NMB)

I refer to the aforementioned matter.

Whilst you are no doubt aware of the fact that our bulk water resources in NMB are dwindling, I thought it well to reach out to you in order to raise some concerns with regards to the continued mismanaging of our water resources by the municipality.

Between the financial years 2021-2023, DWS assisted NMB in funding drought mitigation and water augmentation projects to the tune of R1 Billion. This investment aimed at augmenting the daily bulk water supply by some 100 MI, thereby giving NMB reasonable water security for the foreseeable future.

Low and behold, since the drought has been broken, the City has made no progress at all with addressing non-revenue water or real water losses. In fact, non-revenue water reached

a record high of 60.4% last September. It is very clear that notwithstanding commitments made by the City in order to commission and implement a Water Services Master Plan, there are currently no plan that informs repairs and maintenance programs for the City's ageing water reticulation.

In addition, given the critical human skills shortage that exists in the NMB Water Services Department, I have little faith that NMB will soon be in a position to make a demonstrable difference in sorting out its water services. This will no doubt lead to yet another water crisis, albeit a manmade one.

The current total capacity of NMB storage dams now hovers at about 40% of total capacity. Before we reach disaster stages, I want to request that DWS sends a delegation to NMB to assess what the City is doing in order to overcome the increasing non-revenue water as well as real water losses.

Your assistance in this regard would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Retief Odendaal', with a horizontal line underneath.

Retief Odendaal, MPL

**Shadow MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
Constituency Head: Southern and Western Suburbs NMB**

CC: Hon Zolile Williams MPL, Eastern Cape MEC for CoGTA