



## **EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**

### **MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**

#### **Office of the Democratic Alliance**

**HON. CHANTEL KING, MPL**

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To: Hon. Marina Van Zyl  
DA National CoGTA spokesperson.

### **RE: REQUEST FOR A REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION (OR FAILURE THEREOF) OF THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MODEL IN THE CHRIS HANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO WATER PROVISION IN THE ENOCH MGIJIMA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

I write to formally request that the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs conduct an urgent review into the implementation of the District Development Model (DDM) by the Chris Hani District Municipality, particularly as it relates to water provision in the Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality.

The District Development Model was introduced to enhance coordination, improve planning, and ensure seamless service delivery across the three spheres of government. However, in the case of Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality, there is growing and persistent evidence that these objectives are not being realised, especially in relation to access to reliable water supply.

Despite significant financial investment, including approximately R657.7 million reportedly spent on the Xonxa Dam project, the infrastructure remains largely ineffective. Currently, only one engine is operational, and it is not pumping sufficient water to meet the needs of affected communities. This has resulted in ongoing and daily water outages across large parts of the municipality.

Furthermore, there appears to be a serious breakdown in coordination and communication between the Chris Hani District Municipality and the Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality. Public statements, planning priorities, and implementation actions by the respective political and administrative leadership are often misaligned, suggesting that both municipalities are not “speaking from the same book” as envisaged under the DDM framework.

As a result, residents are subjected to prolonged water shortages and are increasingly reliant on water tanker services. Even these emergency interventions are proving unreliable, with tanker trucks frequently failing to adhere to published delivery schedules, leaving communities without water for extended periods.

These challenges raise serious concerns about accountability, intergovernmental coordination, and the effective implementation of the District Development Model within the Chris Hani District. The lived reality on the ground stands in stark contrast to the intended outcomes of the DDM.

I therefore respectfully request that the Portfolio Committee:

- Reviews the implementation of the District Development Model in the Chris Hani District Municipality;
- Assesses the roles and responsibilities of both the district and local municipalities in relation to water provision;
- Investigates the expenditure, operational readiness, and performance of the Xonxa Dam project; and
- Considers appropriate remedial actions to ensure that residents of Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality receive reliable and sustainable access to water.

I trust that the Committee will treat this matter with the urgency it deserves, given that access to water is a basic constitutional right and a critical determinant of dignity, health, and economic activity.

I thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to the Committee's intervention.

Yours in good governance.

Hon. Chantel King

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "King".