



## **EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**

### **MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**

**Office of the Democratic Alliance**

**HON. CHANTEL KING, MPL**

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To: MEC. Zolile Williams  
Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

**RE: Addressing Chris Hani District Municipality's water challenges with the National Water Crises Committee:**

I write to formally request that you raise the water infrastructure challenges of Chris Hani District municipality before the National Water Crises Committee that will be chaired by President Ramaphosa.

As you are aware, Chris Hani District municipality require R1.65 billion to address their water infrastructure challenges, an issue they have raised with your department for financial intervention.

The Xonxa dam water project is also a challenge that needs to be address with the National Water Crises Committee. 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 trust that you 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 black ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "King".