



EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Member of the Provincial Legislature

Heinrich Müller, MPL
(Democratic Alliance Spokesperson on DRDAR)



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17 March 2026

To: Hon Zolile Williams

MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature
Bhisho
5606

Dear MEC Williams

RE: URGENT PROVINCIAL INTERVENTION REQUIRED – PROLONGED WATER OUTAGE IN NXUBA (CRADOCK)

I write to bring to your immediate attention the ongoing and critical water outage affecting Nxuba (formerly Cradock) and surrounding areas, which has now entered its sixth consecutive day.

Residents, businesses, and essential services have been left without a reliable water supply for an extended period. The situation reportedly stems from the failure of two water pumps, allegedly damaged following a high-voltage surge linked to Eskom infrastructure. Although these pumps were initially declared repaired, this intervention proved ineffective, and they have since been returned to East London for further repairs.

The current circumstances point to a serious breakdown in infrastructure resilience and response coordination. More concerning, however, is the apparent lack of urgency in resolving the crisis. Communities cannot be expected to endure prolonged water outages without clear communication, credible timelines, or sufficient emergency relief.

This situation has now escalated beyond a routine service disruption. It directly impacts the constitutional right of residents to access sufficient water and poses an immediate threat to public health, dignity, and local economic activity. Clinics, schools, households, and businesses are all operating under increasingly strained conditions.

In light of the above, I call on your office to urgently intervene to stabilise the situation and restore water supply without further delay.

Kindly advise whether your office was aware of this outage and what steps have been taken to address it. If interventions are underway, I request clarity on the nature of those interventions and the expected timeframe for restoring reliable water supply.

The current situation is untenable. Immediate and decisive action is required to protect both livelihoods and basic human dignity.

I look forward to your urgent response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'HEINRICH MÜLLER', written in a cursive style.

HEINRICH MÜLLER, MPL

**Shadow MEC of Agriculture
Constituency Head: Eastern Cape Midlands**

CC: Cllr Monde Desha, Eastern Cape Midlands Caucus Leader