



EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

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Attention: The MEC for CoGTA

Hon Zolile Williams

Dear Hon Williams

Re: Inhumane living conditions in Makhanda

I hope you are well. I would like to bring to your attention the following:

The living conditions of the residents in Scott's Farm and Vergenoeg in Makhanda are despicable and warrant an immediate investigation by the South African Human Rights Commission.

Sewage flows through the streets and lies in pools in the yards of residents, while access to water has become non-existent. The Makana Municipality has completely reneged on their legislative responsibility to provide drinking water to residents, who are now totally dependent upon the goodwill of Non-Profit Organisations such as Gift of the Givers for access to drinking water. The few residents who do have water in their taps are at risk as the water is allegedly contaminated with sewage.

Furthermore, the roots of huge trees in the area have grown into non-functional sewage and water pipes and have caused untold damage to many RDP houses in the area, cracking and shifting house walls. This damage creates massive risk to the residents who live in these structures, as the risk of walls collapsing is imminent. As for the road infrastructure in these areas – there simply isn't any.

During an oversight visit to these communities last Friday, it was revealed that these issues have been raised on a regular basis with both the ward councillor and the municipal officials for several years, without any meaningful response.

I therefore urgently request that an immediate intervention is initiated to repair all sewage and water lines, with definitive timelines for the implementation and completion of such intervention.

I have also written to the MEC for Human Settlements, Hon Siphokazi Lusithi, to urgently request that she provide temporary structures for those whose houses are no longer structurally sound, as well as a clear and timebound plan to either effect repairs or rebuild the damaged houses.

I would be grateful for your response to this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Cowley