



EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

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ATTENTION: The MEC for Health

Hon Ntandokazi Capa

Dear Hon Capa

Re: Desperate Ambulance shortages in Eastern Cape

I am deeply concerned by the worsening ambulance crisis across the province. Just today I have received messages that there are NO functional ambulances in Joe Gqabi district, no ambulances in Kirkwood and no ambulances in the Willowmore/Rietbron and Baviaans areas in Sarah Baartman district. All other districts also suffer desperate shortages of ambulances.

For thousands of our residents, an ambulance is the only lifeline between desperately required healthcare services and death. In your recent response to a parliamentary question from myself, it was revealed that there are only 192 ambulances to service the entire province, while 161 ambulances are grounded or in for repairs which take an average of 100 days to complete. This situation is simply untenable.

I therefore humbly appeal to you to undertake a full investigation into the systemic failures and challenges which delay repairs to these crucial vehicles. The ECDoH, and the Provincial government, must urgently put effective plans in place to prioritise the speedy and efficient repairs of our ambulance fleet so that our EMS services are able to function effectively and provide life saving services to the people of this province.

A failure to do so would mean the perpetuation of unnecessary deaths. I look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Yours faithfully

Jane Cowley