



NELSON MANDELA METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
EXECUTIVE MAYOR
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21 OCTOBER 2021

MR C RAMAPHOSA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

BY EMAIL

Your Excellency,

NELSON MANDELA BAY DROUGHT

I refer to the aforementioned matter.

Nelson Mandela Bay (NMB) is currently experiencing a severe drought and as a result our combined dam levels are now standing at an alarming 12.30% of total capacity. Although the metro administration has done everything in its ability to fix leaks, reduce consumption and augment existing water resources, our dam levels have reached critical levels.

We continue to work closely with the Department of Water Affairs on various water augmentation and drought mitigation projects but has unfortunately experienced a major setback recently.

One of our most critical water augmentation projects currently under construction is the 3rd phase of the Nooitgedacht Low Level Water Scheme. This Nooitgedacht Low Level Scheme already provides NMB with some 170 ML of water per day and the 3rd phase will see this increased to about 210 ML a day.

The Department of Water Affairs is overseeing this project and has appointed the Amatola Water Board as implementing agent. This critical project was due for completion by the 30th of September 2021 but has been delayed indefinitely due to the non-payment of the civil contractor by the implementing agent.

The best efforts of my administration has been unable to resolve this impasse and time is running out for the residents of NMB. It seems as if the implementing agent is either unable to pay the civil contractor or in the alternative, deliberately delaying the finalization of the project. Whatever the reason however, this catastrophic delay is exposing NMB to unnecessary adverse risk.

I am of the opinion that the matter could be resolved relatively easily but to date the Department Water Affairs has made little to no progress

I understand that you will be in Nelson Mandela Metro tomorrow, 22 October 2021, and I therefore cordially invite you to a special drought briefing in the City Hall if your schedule allows for such a briefing. Our water officials will conduct the briefing, along with Dr Kaiser from the National Treasury City Support Programme.

Whilst I understand that the aforesaid invitation is regrettably forwarded to you at very short notice, I want to implore you to give us 30 minutes of your time in order to discuss what is arguably the single biggest threat to the metro and our people at the moment.



MAYORAL OFFICE

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Yours sincerely

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