



DOLPHIN COAST RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

MEC Rev Thulasizwe Buthelezi

1 November 2024

Office: KZN Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA)

By email: Mecpa@kzncogta.gov.za

Dear MEC Rev Buthelezi,

RE: Request for Provincial Intervention in KwaDukuza Council Paralysis

We write to you today as a collective of concerned civil society organisations, representing over 30,000 households on the Dolphin Coast and in the wider KwaDukuza area.

For nearly two months, our municipality has been in a state of paralysis due to the ongoing vacancies on the executive committee of Council. On 30 August 2024, a spokesperson from the current ruling party announced that Cllr Lindi Nhaca was being recalled from her position as mayor, however, no official communication has been sent to the municipal manager in this regard. Almost a month later on 28 September, it was announced that Cllr Nhaca's party membership was suspended. Yesterday, she was removed from her position as mayor by a motion of no confidence at the Council meeting. We now sit with two vacant seats on the executive committee, that of the mayor and the deputy mayor, the latter that has been vacant for over a year.

In the meantime, the needs and rights of the community go unanswered and ignored.

Correspondence, petitions, and PAIA applications are met with no reply. Commitments to open-door policies, feedback, and responding to specific issues are ignored, eroding any expectation of transparency and trust with the community. Ward committees in KwaDukuza are largely dysfunctional, with few exceptions. Monthly meetings rarely occur, and when they do, they often devolve into political party gatherings. The lack of oversight enables fabricated minutes and reports, while public meetings are frequently cancelled or used as political platforms.

Perhaps most grave however, is that our municipality is failing to meet its legislative requirements regarding public participation in the IDP process. Imbizos were originally scheduled to take place from 8 October to 6 November 2024 for the 15 unique clusters and stakeholder groups. On 15 October 2024, those imbizos were indefinitely suspended with no reason or explanation. The municipality must give 14 days' notice to the community before an imbizo and allow 21 days after for consultation with their respective constituencies. As the IDP must be presented to Council by the end of November, this does not leave adequate time for community engagement and is in violation of Chapter 4 of the Municipal Systems Act, section 16.

We are, therefore, requesting provincial intervention under Section 139 of the Constitution to bring this paralysis to an end, and restore leadership and oversight in KwaDukuza.

Regards



Deon Viljoen

DOCRRA CHAIRMAN

On behalf of:

Dolphin Coast Residents & Ratepayers Association	KwaDukuza Residents Forum	KwaDukuza Organised Ratepayers Alliance	iLembe Civic Action Movement
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