



# The Eastern Cape Water Crisis Study Report May 2020



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Executive Summary	3
	Introduction	
2	The Rationale Of The Study	3
3	The Study Methodology	4
4	The Context	5
5	The Government Responses Towards Addressing The Water Crisis In The Midst Of Covid19	6
5.1.	The Department Of Human Settlements, Water And Sanitation And The Water Services Authority	7
5.2.	Cogta Partnerships And The Installation Of Water Tanks	8
5.3.	The Department Of Human Settlement, Water And Sanitation Tank Coverage In The Eastern Cape Province	8
5.4.	Eastern Cape Boreholes Coverage During Covid19 By The Dws	10
5.5.	The Municipal Infrastructure Grant Prioritization	12
5.6.	Unspent Budgets During 2018/2019 Financial Year	13
5.7.	The Water Services Infrastructure Grant Allocations For 2019/2020	15
6	Dams And Springs In The Eastern Cape	16
7	Community Experiences Of The Drought And Covid19 Crisis Responses	17
8	Key Lessons	20
9	Recommendations	20
9.1.	Campaign For Access To Water	20
9.1.1.	Access To Portable Clean Water	20
9.1.2.	Access To Water Resources For Livelihoods Development	21
10.	Conclusion	21
11.	List Of Organizations, Movements And Networks	22

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Climate change exposes the injustices and class as well as race inequalities in South Africa generally and the Eastern Cape Province in particular. This became evident during both the drought of 2019 and the COVID-19 lockdown. This is the second study with regards the water crisis in the Eastern Cape and on the coping strategies of communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. In October 2019, the **National Trust for Community Outreach and Education (NTCOE)** and the Eastern Cape affiliates of **Inyanda National Land Movement** undertook a study to assess the effects of drought on working class communities. The study also wanted to understand the responses of local municipalities as well as the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation. On the other hand, the study also sought to understand the community initiatives in response to the problem. This report reflects on the plans of the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation as well as the local municipalities to rollout about 4000 JoJo tanks in response to the dire water need of poor communities, particularly the rural Eastern Cape villages. The study covered 14 communities in the Eastern Cape. See the map in the following pages for details of the communities.

The 2019 drought already demonstrated the inability of the local municipalities in rendering decent services to the working class townships, rural villages, and the informal settlements. The drought inflicted much trauma on women and girl children who are expected to ensure availability of water in their households.

Non-availability of water also affects the schooling system. Some primary schools could not finish their daily schedules due

to the non-availability of water in the school premises. Some schools in rural villages rely on water tanks (JoJo tanks) but those tanks went dry. And, the education department, the ward councillors and the traditional leadership were aware of the unfolding tragic situation.

The water scarcity also had effects on various livelihood initiatives in communities. Even the agro-ecology initiatives and or people who understood the principles of engaging in alternative food production methods were negatively affected. Some community members even had to suspend their activities due to the scarcity of water.

### 2. THE RATIONALE FOR THE STUDY

The top-down approach by government in responding to the COVID-19 crisis is creating more challenges than solutions. It does not empower communities to build resilience and be co-owners of strategies to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. The government's interventions also expose its inability to change people's lives and to bring about the promised **"better life for all"**. Therefore, the study focused on:

1. Understanding the government interventions to address the water crisis to date (May 2020)
2. Assessing the role the catchment management forums in dealing with water related matters
3. Investigating the people's strategies and experiences in addressing their water needs under the COVID-19 pandemic
4. Exploring the strategies and tactics the movements embark on beyond COVID19 to meet the water needs

These four points try to unpack the context the COVID19 presents and the struggle for water the poor people engage in not only to survive, but for structural changes for

justice and to prevent recurrence of these problems.

### 3. THE METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

One of the implications of the Covid19 pandemic is for activists, researchers and community leaders to drastically adapt and change ways of conducting their activities. The lockdown and its directives also affected the approach of the study. Nevertheless, the following methods were applied during the study:

- King Williams Town
- Keiskamahoe
- East London
- Berlin
- Mount Frere
- Elliot
- Cala

### B. QUESTIONNAIRE

The structure of the questionnaire was such that participants who have not participated in the 2019 water crisis study should not feel lost. The questionnaire was filled out through telephonic calls. Other participants filled out the questionnaire by responding to the questions. The latter group of participants used WhatsApp to reply to the questions. In summary, the questionnaire focused on:

- The experiences of the 2019 drought and how it affected the individual, family, and the broader community
- Government's responses (practical measures) in addressing the water needs during the 2019 drought
- The present water needs and challenges during the lockdown

### A. IDENTIFYING PARTICIPANTS

This study relied on the list of respondents who were selected during the October 2019 study. Others were newly recruited participants. In the main, the participants are activists in civil society organisations and movements. However, the views expressed in the study are expressed in the personal capacity of the activists.

In terms of the areas, the participants have been from:

- Tsomo
- Stutterheim
- Libode
- Ngqamakwe
- Graaf Reinet
- Port Elizabeth
- Grahamstown

- Getting a sense of the organizations and movements involved in the water struggles

### C. DESKTOP REVIEWS

There is a lot of information on different websites but in this regard, the focus was on the websites of:

- The Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation
- The municipalities in the various metropolitans and districts
- The Water Board in the Eastern Cape
- Newspaper articles
- Social media

### D. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

This has been a very difficult task in

receiving information. The institutions approached are the following:

- Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation (Pretoria)
- Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation (EC office)
- Portfolio committee – Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation (EC Legislature)
- Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (EC)
- Amatola Water Board (EC)
- Eastern Cape Socio Economic Consultative Council (ECSECC)

#### 4. THE CONTEXT

The current challenges of poor black rural residents have historical foundations. They stem from our history of colonial and apartheid domination of the black population. Capitalist motives to expand markets and maximise profits led to the identification of certain regions of the world as colonies from which capital could achieve its objectives. Africa and South Africa became one of those regions that capital targeted; alienating land from self-sufficient Africans, pushing them to smaller and less fertile parts of the colonies called native reserves, depriving these native reserves development. These were moves aimed at forcing the impoverished Africans in the native reserves seek employment in the developing white-owned industries in the vacated lands.

The racial and capitalist regime pursued an economy based on racial exclusion, deprivation, exploitation and political oppression. Thus, there was racialised spatial planning, water reticulation and sanitation as the native reserves, Bantustans and later referred to as homelands, became a perfect example of such planning processes. The Transkei and Ciskei, for instance, are an outcome of this

history. At the same time, settlement areas for black people within the republic of South Africa, such as the townships, were also marginalised in terms of development. The lack of infra-structure in these areas for poor black people is a sequel to the racialised development approach that was a basis for capitalist development in South Africa. The historical neglect of rural villages has led to poor black people staring at poverty, with no access to clean drinking water and dignified sanitation systems.

However, the pillars of the “racial” and class hegemony have remained intact in the twenty-six years of the ANC rule. Instead of dismantling them, there has been growth of the black elite and entrenchment of the **neoliberal capitalist** agenda characterised by an extractive economic approach with growing negative phenomena such as the challenge of global warming and climate change. The neo-liberal economic era we are in is also characterised by weakening of the state and its institutions. The business sector becomes the vehicle through which services are provided through the corrupt-ridden tendering process. State departments such as the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation are on the brink of collapse due to the high levels of corruption. Corruption in this department can be traced as far back as the signing of the water accord between post-apartheid South Africa and Lesotho. In its bi-annual meeting in 2017, the South African Water Caucus of the Centre for Environmental Rights raised their concerns about the unaccounted financial expenditures in the department. Moreover, the Amatola Water Board which manages dams and reservoirs and is supposed to support municipalities that lack capacity in providing water and sanitation services. Yet, various poor black communities continue to experience water shortages. This is despite various engagements (2014-



2015) between the then Department of Water and Sanitation (Eastern Cape office), the Eastern Cape Water Caucus, including the Amathole District Municipality and the Amatola Water Board regarding the water crisis in the villages. The irony in the rural villages of the Eastern Cape are the river streams passing many villages and townships. However, these villages do not have clean portable drinking water and cannot access water for irrigation and food production. There are also villages with taps, but no water comes out of the taps.

The **Gift of the Givers** had to intervene by bringing specialists to the Makhanda Local Municipality to lend support in the provision of water to the residents. Regrettably, the organisation had to leave the area due to non-cooperation from the

municipality. The Gift of the Givers also intervened in Graaf Reinet to address the collapse of water services in the area.

Clearly, the devastating seeds of inequality sowed by colonialism and apartheid, reproduced under post-apartheid South Africa continue to confront us, This legacy and the neoliberal approach presents the systemic challenges communities are faced with.

## 5. THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSES TO THE WATER CRISIS AMID COVID19 PANDEMIC

The government has mobilised the private sector and entered in partnership with it in addressing the challenges of water provision in communities. Below are details of individual departmental and partnership efforts.

## 5.1. THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, WATER AND SANITATION AND THE WATER SERVICES AUTHORITY

The “drastic” interventions in addressing water supply in water stressed communities under the COVID19 crisis have to be viewed as an attempt to calm down peoples’ anger. It is a pretence that the Ramaphosa administration cares for the vulnerable and poor working class people, particularly women and girl children. His administration’s response is also a populist strategy to score political points. It rather indicates a lack of a political will to address rampant corruption in the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, and in the municipalities. Without addressing

corruption there can be no better delivery of the basic services as per their constitutional mandate. Out of a total of 19251 DWS tanks nationally, only 17829 have been delivered thus far throughout the nine provinces.

The Eastern Cape has received 5489 out of 5695 tanks expected to be delivered. Additionally, only 4314 tanks have been installed throughout the two metropolitans and the six district municipalities. There are currently 166 tankers to fill the JoJo tanks with water. 88 tankers from the total number of tankers are from the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation; and 85 are from the Water Services Authority. The Water services Authority is mainly been managed by district municipalities.

### DWS AND WSA TANKS AND TANKERS (16 MAY 2020)

DISTRICTS	TANKS ALLOCATED					DELIVERED					TANKS TOTAL INSTALLED					TANKERS			
	DWS					FORMAL	INFORMAL	RAND WATER	WSA	TOTAL	FORMAL	DWS				DWS	RAND WATER	WSA	TOTAL
	FORMAL	INFORMAL	RAND WATER	WSA	TOTAL							INFORMAL	RAND WATER	WSA	TOTAL				
Buffalo City	22	50	0	199	271	22	50	30	199	271	22	0	0	199	221	5	0	13	18
Nelson Mandela	0	100	0	0	100	0	100	0	0	100	0	83	0	0	83	0	0	7	7
Alfred Nzo	616	2	0	10	628	613	2	0	10	625	445	2	0	10	457	7	3	5	15
Amathole	501	20	100	120	741	501	20	100	120	741	367	10	0	120	497	8	4	10	22
Chris Hani	520	20	100	322	962	520	20	100	322	962	451	10	0	322	783	11	3	16	30
Joe Gqabi	228	2	0	0	230	228	2	0	0	230	228	2	0	0	230	4	5	10	19
OR Tambo	460	60	129	594	1243	460	60	129	594	1243	325	50	102	594	1071	6	5	15	26
Sarah Baartman	411	490	0	208	1109	411	448	0	208	1067	301	463	0	208	972	10	10	9	29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2758</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>1453</b>	<b>5284</b>	<b>2755</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>1453</b>	<b>5329</b>	<b>2139</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>1453</b>	<b>4314</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>166</b>

*#DWS appointed Amatola Water who has since committed 3831 tanks for the EC. To date a total of ( 2755 + 702+329) 3786 tanks have been delivered inclusive of those meant for informal Settlements.*

*# A total of 744 tanks are to be allocated to informal settlements*

*#A total of 2861 tanks have been installed*

*# WSAs procured 1453 tanks and continue to tanker these*

*# A total of 166 tankers are being used for tinkering in the EC (DWS: 81 + WSAs: 85).*

*All tankers marked in red will be dispatched during the course of the week. (They were recalled in order to rotate service providers*

## 5.2. COGTA PARTNERSHIPS AND THE INSTALLATION OF WATER TANKS

The tanks donated by Department of Co-operative Government and Traditional Affairs and Al-Imdaad have been delivered (to communities?). Even though the tanks were delivered, the process of installing those tanks in communities have been very slow. The delay is explained as a lack of work force, ill-preparedness and or lack of plans by the municipalities in responding

to the crisis. Many municipalities have not yet identified sites for the installation of the tanks. There is also no clarity why the delay in delivery of the 100 tanks donated by Santam. Only 49 tanks out of the 300 delivered tanks were installed and only 3 tankers are in operation. On the other other hand, silence of traditional authorities in such a situation is disturbing considering that people they serve are under tremendous pressure due to the COVID19 lockdown. Yet, people are expected to frequently wash their hands, among other things.

### COGTA & DONOR TAKS AND TANKERS (16 MAY 2020)

DISTRICTS	TANKS ALLOCATED				DELIVERED				TANKS INSTALLED				TANKERS
	AL-IMDAAD	SANTAM	COGTA	TOTAL	AL-IMDAAD	SANTAM	COGTA	TOTAL	AL-IMDAAD	SANTAM	COGTA	TOTAL	GOG
Buffalo City	30	7	0	37	30	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0
Nelson Mandela	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alfred Nzo	8	14	20	42	8	0	20	28	0	0	0	0	0
Amathole	30	28	69	127	30	0	69	99	8	0	41	49	1
Chris Hani	8	16	20	44	8	0	20	28	0	0	0	0	0
Joe Gqabi	8	8	27	43	8	0	27	35	0	0	0	0	0
OR Tambo	8	27	0	35	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Sarah Baartman	8	0	64	72	8	0	64	72	0	0	0	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>3</b>

*#100 tanks contribution through AL-IMDAAD have been delivered & 100 committed by SANTAM through COGTA HoTL have not yet been delivered. Letters have been forwarded to WSAs regarding the SANTAM donation by COGTA advising location for installations as advised by Traditional Leadership.*

*#GoG has supplied 3 tanks*

## 5.3. SUPPLY OF TANKS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, WATER AND SANITATION IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The bulk of the tanks were to be installed in the O.R. Tambo and the Alfred Nzo District Municipalities in the former Transkei. In the O.R. Tambo

District, the King Sabata Dalindyebo Local municipality allocated most tanks and followed by the Port St. John's and the Nyandeni local municipalities. The Ngquza Hill Local Municipality has received far less tanks, and it is one of the municipalities where communities have taken action to demand water long before the eruption of the COVID19 pandemic.



## BREAKDOWN OF TANKS SPONSORED BY SANTAM

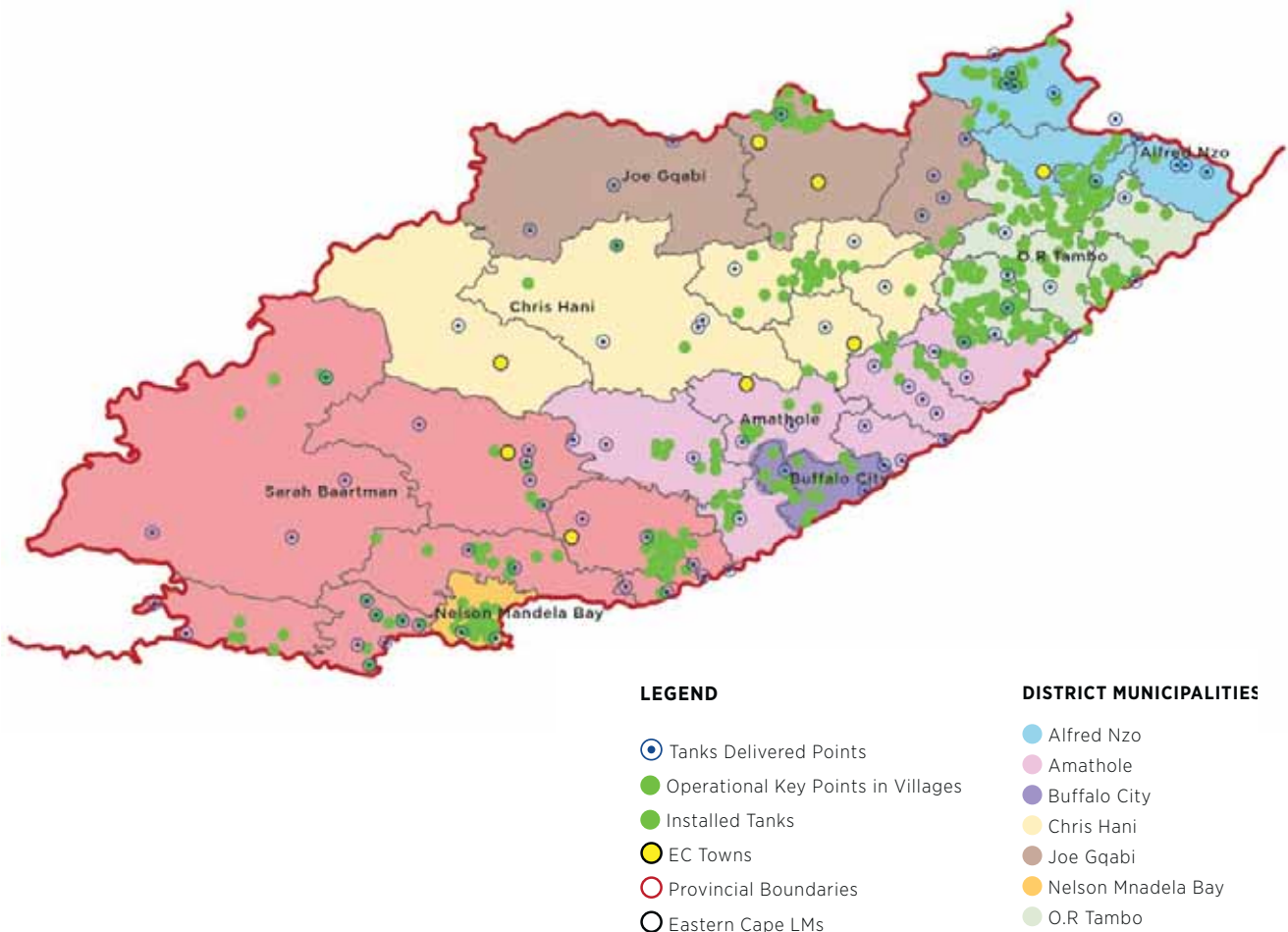
DISTRICT		KINGDOMS		TOTAL
Alfred Nzo	10	4	Oaukeni	14
Amathole	20	8	Mngqesha & Nqadu	28
Buffalo City	7	0		7
Chris Hani	12	4	Qamata	16
Joe Gqabi	8	0		8
OR Tambo	20	8	Nyandeni & Bumbane	27
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>100</b>

In the Alfred Nzo District Municipality, the Ntabankulu Local Municipality received the bulk and followed by the Matatiel Local Municipality. The Umzimvubu Local Municipality received very few tanks.

The communities under this municipality have been vocal on the effects of climate change and lack of water and water supply by the municipality during the drought even before 2019.

## EC DWS TANKS COVERAGE: UPDATE 8 MAY 2020

*Eastern Cape: Drought & COVID19 Water and Sanitation Coverage*



About nine local municipalities were supplied with tanks to install in the informal settlements within their jurisdictions. About five of these municipalities were ready and allocated land for the construction and installation of those tanks.

According to the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign, there is about 57 communities spread across the Eastern Cape Province who registered on their online water crisis mapping who continue to face challenges of water access. Most of these communities are rural villages.

## PROGRESS ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

MUNICIPALITY	INFORMAL SETTLEMENT	WATER AVAILABILITY	LAND AVAILED BY LM	ERECTED TEMPORARY SHELTERS
Mbizana LM	Downtown 800	Tanks Delivered	Not Confirmed	0
Umzimvubu LM	Silver City 999	Tanks Delivered	Not Confirmed	0
KSD LM	Chris Hani, Zone 14, Nkululeweni	Tanks Delivered	YES	0
PSJ LM	Green Farm 500	Tanks Delivered	Not Confirmed	0
Mnquma LM	Madiba, Khayelitsha, old and new skiet	Tanks Delivered	YES	4 Temp shelters
Kouga LM	Oceanview, Patansie, Lourie, Henkie	Tanks Delivered	YES	0 Temp shelters Site established
Makana LM	Nkanini 1500	Tanks Delivered	YES	0
Enoch Mgijima LM	Mlungisi, Zola	Tanks Delivered	YES	0 Temp shelters Site established
Walter Sisulu LM	Soul City	Tanks Delivered	YES	

### 5.4. EASTERN CAPE BOREHOLES COVERAGE DURING COVID19 BY THE DWS

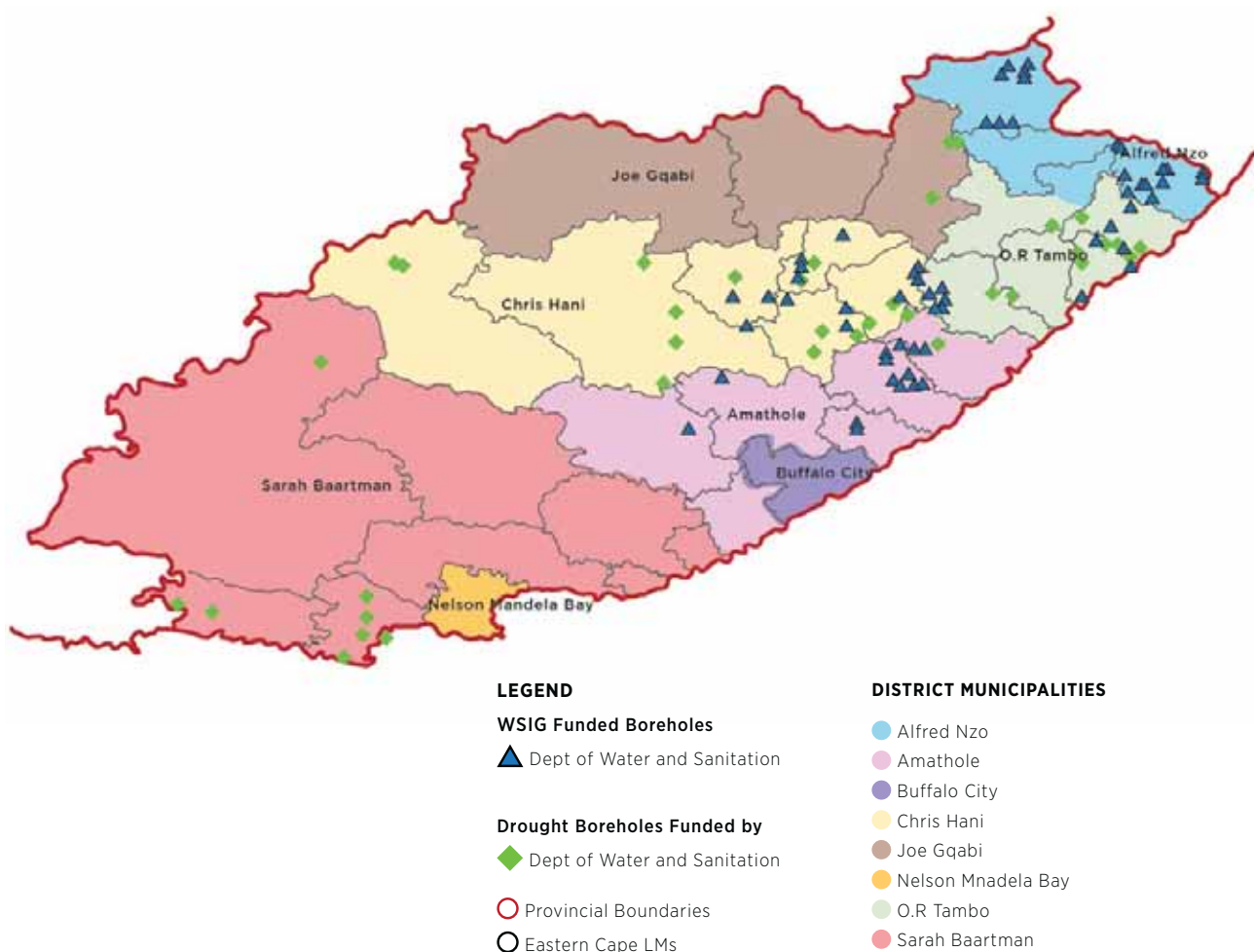
The department focused in the former Transkei area in constructing boreholes during the COVID19 outcry of access to water. The number of boreholes projects

to be in June 2020 are:

- The 2019/2020 projects are 57 boreholes
- 186 boreholes under the Water Services Infrastructure Grant
- 77 boreholes of projects under the Water Services Infrastructure Grant

## EC BOREHOLES COVERAGE

*Eastern Cape: Drought & Covid19 Water and Sanitation Coverage*



## POST COVID19: DWS FUNDED BOREHOLES TO BE COMPLETED IN JUNE 2020 (WSIG)

MUNICIPALITY	NO. OF 2019/20 PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION	NO. OF BOREHOLE PROJECTS UNDER WSIG	NO. OF BOREHOLE PROJECTS UNDER WSIG DROUGHT
Chris Hani	15	31	15
Blue Crane Route	2	N/A	N/A
Makana	6	N/A	TBC
Kouga	1	N/A	24
Koukamma	3	N/A	7
De Beyer's Naude	1	N/A	3
OR Tambo	11	18	15
Amathole	6	107	7
Alfred Nzo	4	30	0
Joe Gqabi	8	N/A	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>77</b>

**POST COVID19: DRILLING OF BOREHOLES - MISA FUNDED**  
*(Borehole completed, Pump Test completed, Will be conducted Water Quality testing underway)*

Planned Start Date	Actual Start Date	Planned Competition Date	Province	Physical Address	Number of HH
16 Apr 20	16 Apr 20	28 Apr 20	EC	NGQUZA HILL LMEMARHAMZENI VILLAGE	301
25 Mar 20	25 Mar 20	08 May 20	EC	NGQUZA HILL LM-LOWER HLABATHI VILLAGE	326
22 Apr 20	24 Apr 20	05 May 20	EC	NGQUZA HILL LM-MDI=ENI VILLAGE	156
19 Apr 20	19 Apr 20	01 May 20	EC	NGQUZA HILL LM-KWACOKA VILLAGE	223
19 Apr 20	19 Apr 20	01 May 20	EC	NGQUZA HILL LM-NGWENYENI VILLAGE	350
22 Apr 20	24 Apr 20	05 May 20	EC	NGQUZA HILL LM-VLEI UPPER HLABATHI VILLAGE	189
16 Apr 20	17 Apr 20	28 Apr 20	EC	NGQUZA HILL LMVLEI (MOHUME) VILLAGE	350

**5.5. THE MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PRIORITIZATION**

About R1499,966,000 of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant has been allocated for the provision of hygienic packs, tanked water, boreholes drilling, repairs and installation of sewer mains and pump stations, household sanitation and alternative technologies, repairs and installation of water mains, pump stations and reservoirs' and for the refurbishment

and upgrade of water and wastewater treatment plants. However, the repairs of water leaks and upgrading of the old water pipes that keep bursting due to the high volume of pressure are not budgeted for. There must be installation of adequately serviced water taps in the informal settlements of Nkandla informal settlement near Amalinda in East London, Upper Ngqumeya village in Keiskamahoeck, Pikoli and Ntloko villages near Peddie, Jekezile village near Ngqamakwe among others.

The chart below gives a breakdown on the budget and budgeted items.

## MIG REPRIORITISATION POST COVID 19

INTERVENTION TYPE	COST
Provision of hygiene packs	R10 000 000
Provision of tankered water	TBC
Drilling and equipping of boreholes (including water quality monitoring)	R 903 906 000
Repairs and installation of sewer mains and pump stations	R 151 978 000
Household sanitation and alternative technologies	R 131 700 000
Repairs and installation of water mains, pump stations and reservoirs	R 233 032 000
Refurbishment and upgrades of water and wastewater treatment plants	R 69 350 000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>R 499 966 000</b>

### 5.6. UNSPENT BUDGETS DURING 2018/2019 FINANCIAL YEAR

The budget allocated for 2018/2019 drought was R647,214,000 to cover the Ndlambe, Koukama, Kouga, Makana, Sundays River Valley, Blue Crane and the Dr. Beyers Naude Local Municipalities and as well the Amathole, Joe Gqabi, Chis Hani and the O. R Tambo District Municipalities. The Alfred Nzo District Municipality did not allocate a drought budget.

Having to notice that only R475,730,042 was collectively spent by these municipalities and an amount of R169,483,958 remained as unspent budget.

The district municipalities with a high level of water shortages, spent between 41% and 83% of the allocated drought funds. The Makana Local Municipality spent about 95% of the R22000000 during that same year but communities in Makhanda struggled in accessing clean portable water. The Amathole District Municipality spent about 41% of its drought allocated budget but in the same year, the communities around Butterworth and Centane were without clean portable water for domestic use. This simply means the municipalities do not have the capacity in providing the necessary services to communities.

## 2018/2019 DROUGHT FUND AVAILABLE POST COVID 19

MUNICIPALITY	ALLOCATION	EXPENDITURE	% EXP	BALANCE
Ndlambe LM	32 809 000	32 809 000	100%	0
Amathole DM	64 088 000	25 992 983	41%	38 095 017
Chris Hani DM	87 300 000	72 934 569	83%	14 365 431
O.R Tambo DM	185 135 000	127 278 148	69%	57 856 852
Joe Gqabi DM	7 673 000	2 487 053	32%	5 185 947
Blue Crane Route	42 300 000	42 300 000	100%	0
Koukamma LM	23 761 000	16 942 856	71%	6 818 144
Kouga LM	151 228 000	111 974 025	74%	39 253 975
Sundays River Valley LM	900 000	845 000	94%	55 000
Dr Beyers Naude	30 020 000	20 281 046	67%	9 738 954
Makana LM	22 000 000	20 885 362	95%	1 114 638

*An amount of R42787000 covid19 disaster relief grant allocated to Makana LM, Ndlambe LM, Chris Hani DM, Joe Gqabi DM, Amathole DM, Blue Crane Route LM, Dr. Byer's Naude LM, Kouga LM, O. R. Tambo DM, Koukamma LM, Sara h Baartman DM, Kouga LM and Sundays River LM*

## MUNICIPAL DISASTER RELIEF GRANT: COVID 19

MUNICIPALITY	BUDGET ALLOCATED
Ndlambe LM	1 043 000
Amathole DM	8 761 000
Chris Hani DM	7 390 000
O.R Tambo DM	9 980 000
Joe Gqabi DM	3 785 000
Blue Crane Route	983 000 000
Koukamma LM	953 000
Kouga LM	1 192 000
Sundays River Valley LM	1 043 000
Dr Beyers Naude	1 132 000
Sarah Baartman DM	596 000
Makana LM	1 639 000

## 5.7. THE WATER SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT ALLOCATIONS FOR 2019/2020

There has been a total grant allocation of R520,461,000 and about R33,597,299 was not spent by end March 2020.

### WSIG (5B) 2019 / 2020 GRANT ALLOCATIONS

MUNICIPALITY	TOTAL TRANSFERRED 000'	EXPENDITURE UNTIL MARCH 2020 000'	REMANING (END OF MARCH)
Blue Crane Route	13 000 000	6 000 000	7 000 000
Makana	20 000 000	3 228 990	16 771 010
Amathole District	102 000 000	49 226 927	52 773 073
Chris Hani District	84 461 000	15 490 116	68 970 884
Koukamma	10 000 000	5 402 306	4 597 694
Kouga	10 000 000	517 467	9 597 694
Dr Beyers Naude	7 000 000	1 381 676	5 618 324
Joe Gqabi District	84 000 000	33 685 115	50 314 885
O.R Tambo District	100 000 000	10 537 346	89 462 654
Alfred Nzo District	90 000 000	59 018 059	30 981 941
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>520 461 000</b>	<b>184 488 002</b>	<b>335 972 998</b>

The Makana Local Municipality remained with about R16,771,010 from the R20,000,000 grant allocated to the municipality. The unattended burst pipe and sewage blocks, which are detrimental to children's health, could be repaired with the grant. The Makana Local Municipality had the Give of the Givers experts and engineers to assist in upgrading the water systems around Makhanda but failed to cooperate.

The Chris Hani District Municipality remained with about R68,970,884 from the R84,461,000 grant allocated whilst residents in the Sakhisizwe Local

Municipality are not receiving quality services from the municipality.

The O. R. Tambo District Municipality remained with about R89,462,654 from the R100,000,000 grant allocated to it. Rural municipalities, faced with extreme poverty and high rate of unemployment and crime, mainly constitute the O. R. Tambo district municipality.

The Amathole District Municipality in its draft budget of R64,088,000 had a balance of R38,095,017 from the 2018/2019 financial year. Under the 2019/2020 WSIG grant, by the end March 2020 the

municipality remained with R52,773,073 of the R102,000,000 whereas there are villages in Mnquma, Emalahleni, Mbashe and Ngqushwa Local Municipalities that

are struggling in getting clean portable water. The chart below shows the grant allocations, expenditure and how much remained by end March 2020.

## 6. DAMS AND SPRINGS IN THE EASTERN CAPE

There about 47 dams providing water to the whole of the Eastern Cape. The table below presents information on the

amount of water in the province. The issue of how the water is distributed in the province seems not to be for public consumption. The dam levels as recorded on the 18th May 2020 are as follows:

DAM NAME	% OF WATER	DAM NAME	% OF WATER	DAM NAME	% OF WATER
Churchill	62.35	Bridle Drift	47.04	Dabi	60
Impofu	16.72	Nahoon	45.62	Nuwejaars	10.04
Kouga	9.67	Gubu	73.33	Kommandodrift	24.92
Loerie	44.89	Wriggleswade	28.04	Katrivier	57.4
Groendal	33.76	Boesmanskrant	46	Nqweba	20.05
Laing	100.65	Waterdown	36.35	Sandile	57.61
Rooikrantz	99.36	Oxkraal	69.77	Binfield	66.25
Debe	18.99	Macubeni	100	Xonxa	100
Lubisi	55.83	Doornrivier	85.84	Ncora	99.81
Tsoiana	100	Gcuwa	78.14	Xilinxá	12.94
Toleni	82.12	Umtata	100.59	Maheleni	100
Corana	98.44	Belfort	100	Ntenetvana	102.96
Nqadu	100	Magwa	50	Mhlanga	37.84
Beervlei	0	Darlington	45.25	Elandsdrift	74.1
De Mistkraal	85.35	Glen Melville	93.71	Sterkspruit	100.41
Katse	37.62	Garien	98.56		

On the 20th May 2020, major storing dams that are supplying the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality dam levels were

- Kouga 9.40%
- Churchill 61.60%
- Impofu 16.45%
- Groendal 33.51%

There is not much information about the number of springs in the province and who owns them. It seems that the municipalities have authority over such information. This is a highly problematic considering that water resources have been entrusted with the Department of Human Settlement, Water and Sanitation.



The municipalities purchase water in bulk from the Amatola Water Board. Therefore, the responsibility of the municipalities is to supply households with clean portable

drinking water, sanitation systems and other basic services as contemplated in the Constitution and the Municipal Systems Act.



## 7. COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES OF THE DROUGHT AND COVID19 CRISIS RESPONSES

Most of the participants in the water crisis study were able to make the connections between the droughts and climate change. They believe that the drought and climate changes are propelled by an extractive economic system for profit making and not using methods that are ecologically sustainable.

The Eastern Chapter of the Inyanda National Land Movement wrote an urgent letter to the Premier to proposing a meeting to discuss important issues affecting communities under the lockdown. Among

other things to discuss with the Premier was the water challenges communities faced with in relation of adhering to the National Disaster Management Act 2020 as amended. The meeting of the 12th April 2020 with the Premier postponed on the last minute by his office. There has been no follow-up to it.

Even though some communities experienced the drought since 2015, the municipalities including the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation did not consider the plight of the people. Jekezi village outside Ngqamakwe in the Mnquma Local Municipality is one of the villages without water and had to wait

for tankers to fill their 25l drums with water. Nosintu says, "The disabled had difficulties to fetch water from afar". In many instances, the disabled had to hire people to fetch them water. The distance and the slope disadvantage the disabled persons. The drought was worst in 2019 for many communities.

Siphelele Mceke who resides in the Elubhacweni loacation in Mount Frere said, the Umzimvubu Local Municipality did not make means to supply communities with water. He said, "We had to consume water with our livestock".

Ms. Zitha in the Upper Ngqumeya village mentioned that the Sandile Dam is not far away from their village but the village is without water. She further said that the JoJo tanks that were delivered six months ago are at a family home of a community development worker. She believes the tanks were part of relief support to farmers. They are still facing the challenge of being without water under the COVID19 pandemic.

At Lusikisiki, a Councillor kept six JoJo tanks at his house in the Njombela

village. The Lusikisiki residents have been attempting implementing community solutions to their water crisis a few years ago. A Ward Councillor also dismissed the resident's initiatives, according to Mr. Qhinebe a member of the Eastern Cape Water Caucus.

In Village 5, Mgwalini just outside Stutterheim under the Amahlathi Local Municipality, no water trucks observed in 2019 supplying the community with water. It is dangerous during this face of COVID19. Mrs. Thobeka Maphukatha said women had to walk far distances to fetch water. In 2020, they had no regular water coming out of taps. By the time of the interview in April 2020, she mentioned that as the interview is been conducted there were no water in the village. In the Mncontsho village outside Berlin, Ms. Yamkela Tunywa mentioned that the Buffalo Metropolitan Municipality installed one JoJo tank for the whole village. With the directives of physical distancing and lockdown, it was impossible for residents to stay at home.

Mr. Andile Mapisa in Cambridge near East London emphasised the misery the drought brought to people. In his experience as a





foot soldier of the Inyanda National Land Movement, in saw livestock in Teko near Centane dying due to the drought. There was also no water coming out of the communal taps.

Moreover, residents of Nombanjane in Centane have no access to water and, instead of addressing the issue, the police arrested the community leaders in April 2020 for holding a meeting to discuss the crisis. The Eastern Cape Inyanda National Land Movement wrote in April 2020 an urgent letter to Premier Oscar Mabuyana and expressed their concerns about the arrest of the community leaders of Coastal Links for holding a meeting. These leaders are from three villages near Centane.

The Dwesa Cwebe community has been

experiencing water injustices for over two years and has unsuccessfully approached the Amathole District Municipality several times. In the Ngudle Administrative area, Vuyelwa Mdekazi applauded the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform for the assistance received for their livestock. However, that was not enough. Due to scarce rainfall, there was no grass for their livestock.

According to Solomzi Mntungwa in Cala, the Sakhisizwe Local Municipality has not been effective in providing services in general. During the 2019 drought, the water tanker could not cope in providing communities with water. George Ngoko from Elliot mentioned that during the peak of the drought in 2019, no water trucks entered the Takalani township. In the lockdown phase, the Takalani

community are experiencing inconsistent access to water, as water is switched off at a certain time. He also stated that the problem of access to water at the Ekuthuleni section of Vergenoeg meant that the residents were unable to observe the safety measures related to COVID19. Concerns are confirmed by Dr Fani Ncapayi in an article in the Daily Maverick of 13 April 2020. He is quoted as having said, "the situation in Sakhisizwe Municipality, based in Cala, was absolutely desperate. Most of the houses here share communal taps. There is no water in the taps. Several villages have no water".

Civil society organisations in Sakhisizwe are not taking their situation lying down. They are pressuring the provincial government to act. For instance, on the 14th May

2020 they issued an ultimatum to the Eastern Cape Government to dissolve the dysfunctional Sakhisizwe Local Municipality. The ultimatum was written to Premier Mabuyana and copied to the COGTA MEC Mr. Xolile Nqata. The pressure has resulted in the MEC Nqata meeting with CALUSA to discuss the concerns.

Mandisa Poswayo who resides at Thabo Mbeki Location in Libode under the Nyandeni Local Municipality said the community have been without water since 2015. There are jojo tanks installed in the community but these tanks are filled with water after every third week. The situation forces people not abide to the lockdown rules.

Ntsika Mateta at Ngqwele village near King Williams Town under the Ngqushwa Local Municipality. He is also an adherent of the Eastern Cape Water Caucus mentioned that since 2019 their community experienced water challenges for their livestock. The nearby villages like Nxopho are suffering and in some instances stay for weeks without water supply. He further mentioned the matter have been raised with the ward councilor. The ward councilor in reply said it is the responsibility of the Amatola Water Board to ensure water supply to villages is happening.

The Grahamstown townships under the Makanda Local Municipality have been experiencing muddy water, water pipes bursting and arrogant political leadership without envisioning a future municipality that will provide adequate basic services to residents. The Unemployed Peoples Movement successfully applied for the dissolving of the Makana Local Municipality. The ultimate reason for that was the municipality became dysfunctional; corruption and lack of basic services such as water not provided. In the Daily Maverick Ayanda Kota quoted saying, "The water is

only off at night now".

## 8. KEY LESSONS

The COVID19 pandemic exposed deep-rooted systemic inequalities between urban and rural communities. The draught and the COVID19 pandemic affect people differently based on their class and gender statuses. It is of concern to notice that information with regards to the allocation of the JoJo tanks is not evenly shared or known amongst state organs. The crux of the matter, community participation was ignored in determining the accessible points where the JoJo tanks should be installed. This undemocratic practice by the Eastern Cape COVID19 Command further exposes vulnerable communities to contract and fast spreading the corona virus in their communities.

Though communities are encountering the hardship of COVID19, alternative means of survival through unity in action and pledging solidarity with each other's struggles have been inspiring. The importance thereof was the fact that communities were able to mobilize, educate and advance the struggle for basic municipal services.

## 9. RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations categorized in two priority sections in intensifying the struggle for access to waters for domestic purposes and sustainable livelihoods projects.

### 9.1. CAMPAIGN FOR ACCESS TO WATER

#### 9.1.1. ACCESS TO PORTABLE CLEAN WATER

Access to portable clean water is and will remain a challenge for many working class communities. The construction of boreholes, the supply of jojo tanks and the

water tank trucks is just a drop of water in the ocean. The Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation can do much more in ensuring water availability and access to water been realized, especially in the countryside of the Eastern Cape Province.

The allocated funds to many of the municipalities for repairing water pumps, installing water supply infrastructure are not yet been used for the purpose. Therefore, a campaign is of necessity before these funds be redirected for other municipality expenses.

The campaign should cover issues of

- The immediate repairing of burst water pipes in the townships, informal settlements and villages
- The water reticulation scheme be biased and prioritize mainly affected rural villages, in
- particular the former Transkei region
- The rolling out of more jojo water tanks for water harvesting and storage hence the drought and COVID19 will be an ongoing threat
- The distribution and allocation of water by the municipalities and the DWS be done in
- consultation with communities hence both the CMA and CMFs have limited power and influence
- The Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) be prioritized for the next 5 years in supporting water supply infrastructure in the rural villages including schools
- Employment and training of unemployed youth as water brigades and be employed under the DWS, the Amatola Water Board and District Municipalities

Therefore, understand the campaign for access to water in the context of building grassroots community power and a united voice.

### 9.1.2. ACCESS TO WATER RESOURCES FOR LIVELIHOODS DEVELOPMENT

The Eastern Cape Province is mainly rural and constituted by rural villages. The residents in rural villages are dependent on the land for survival. That means their livelihoods evolve mostly on activities in the use of land to survive the structural systemic catastrophic of unemployment, poverty and hunger amongst other things.

The rural villagers are confronted with a Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform that is detached from the real lived experiences and needs of rural villages. Therefore the department's strategic interventions artificially address those needs by supporting certain projects linked to the hegemony of commercializing food production initiatives with highly use of chemicals. Many of those projects fail due to lack of accessing water from river streams and dams near the villages. The complicated application processes for water licenses/permits is a setback for many initiatives.

Package the access to water resources to address the following by the DWS:

- Exempting livelihoods initiatives from applying for water licenses/permit
- The department to a register of such initiatives to avoid the system been exploited by corporates
- The Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR) to assist in the extraction and storage of water for the benefit of these rural livelihoods initiatives

## 10. CONCLUSION

The climate change and its disruptive effects of water crises such as drought

and cyclones among other things are an exposure at a global scale of a deep-rooted crisis in the neoliberal capitalist system. Among other things have been its ability to respond to COVID19 pandemic and safe lives of millions of people who died and still have to die in large number for the years to come. The weak public health system is unable to deal with the high number of COVID19-infected persons hence there are not enough beds in ICU sections, a collapsed primary health care facilities (clinics) and the non-recognition of the consequences of the long battle for government to recognize community health workers and be included in the health department's systems. The constant washing of hands have been one of the

methods applied in order to prevent the spread of the COVID19 virus.

There can be no justification for government not being able investing to ensure a sustainable supply of clean portable water infrastructures in the communities that have been without water or unable to access water. Such commitment will ease income levels and create employment in large numbers especially employing youth and women.

The Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform may shift in its priorities in farmer support programs and focus in the resuscitation of the abandoned windmills, pits and agricultural schemes that are under-utilized with a focus on food security.

## 11. LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS, MOVEMENTS AND NETWORKS

NAME OF ORGANISATION, MOVEMENT OR NETWORK	CONSTITUENCY	LOCATION
Eastern Cape Water Caucus	Communities, community based organizations, cooperatives, farmers, Ecovillage Design Education networks	Provincial
Eastern Cape Water and Sanitation Crisis	Community based organizations, movements and farmers	Provincial
Unemployed Peoples Movement	Unemployed youth	Grahamstown
Each One Teach One	Academics, farmers	Grahamstown
Inyanda National Land Movement	Farmers and rural villages	Provincial
Ntinga Ntaba kaNdoda Rural Movement	Rural villages	Keiskamahoe
Support Centre for Land Change	Farmers	Graaf Reinet
Nosizwe Funda Educational and Community Development Centre	Cooperatives, villages and CBOs	Dimbaza
Sakhisizwe Civil Society Forum	Civil society organizations, movements, associations and movements	Cala