



8 August 2019

To: **Honourable Premier Lubabalo Mabuyane**
Eastern Cape Office of the Premier
Private Bag X0047, Bhisho, 5605

Dear, Honourable Premier

Request for Urgent Meeting

The Amahlathi Residence Association (ARA) represent numerous households, businesses and farmers in the greater Amahlathi area and is a registered non-profit company.

At a meeting held between the ARA and the appointed Administrator, the Acting Municipal Manager and Chief Financial Officer of the Amahlathi Local Municipality, on 3 July 2019, it became clear the Constitution Section 139(1)b and 139(5) gives the Administrator insufficient powers to implement the necessary interventions to ensure the financial stability of the municipality.

As it stands the municipality is systematically collapsing, since there are insufficient financial resources to deliver services and maintain the payroll. Every month the financial position of the municipality is worsening, while essential infrastructure is not being maintained and municipality is failing to service its debt, resulting in no refuse services, regular power outages and ESKOM threatening to put the town on 14 hours a day load shedding.

The administrator has subsequently advised us, the ARA need to write the MEC of COGTA a letter requesting a meeting. We did write such a letter on 22 July 2019 and received an acknowledgement of receipt from his office the same day, unfortunately to date we have not received a response to our request. We hereby request the Office of the Premier (OTP) urgent arrange meeting between OTP and the COGTA MEC to allow the ARA to explain to both OTP and the COGTA MEC, that the current intervention is not working, since the council is unwilling to reverse the decisions that have bankrupted the municipality.

Should you wish to communicate directly with the ARA you can forward any correspondence to Donald Kemp who will serve as the liaison for the purposes of communication (Mobile number: 073 427 2119 & e-mail: donald@barkaybirds.co.za).

Yours Sincerely

Chair Person of the ARA

CC: The DG: OTP, MEC: COGTA, Chief of Staff: OTP, Chief of Staff: COGTA