

# EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

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### **Members Statement: Sewerage in CHDM is destroying human dignity!**

The ongoing collapse of Waste Water Treatment Works facilities across the Chris Hani District Municipality as a result of collapsing infrastructure continues to result in raw sewerage spills polluting the surrounding environment and numerous fresh water sources throughout the district and is wreaking havoc all the way down the Fish River.

In terms of information sourced from an application in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA), from 2017 to current:

- At least nine (9) non-compliance notices have been served on the municipality in terms of the prevention of pollution which were not complied with.
- At least seven (7) directives to stop pollution from failing WWTW were issued which were not complied with.
- At least eight (8) fresh water rivers of which one is the Fish River and others are tributary to the Fish River is being polluted by raw sewerage.

The situation in Chris Hani District Municipality is a result of allowing infrastructure to deteriorate to a point of complete collapse, as a competency of District Municipalities the situation illustrates that the District Municipality is either not willing or not capable to deal with the sewerage disaster of its own making.

We appeal to the Hon MEC:

- Please intervene – The DM Municipality must prioritise the repair and maintenance of Waste Water Infrastructure or;
- Move the water and sanitation function away from the CHDM to local municipalities – they may be better equipped to deal with the function from a Human Resource and Financial perspective.

Let's be proactive in cleaning up the Eastern Cape!