



Gauteng Provincial Head Office

Tel: +27 10 593 3020

Email: gauteng@da.org.za

www.da.org.za

21 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue, Bruma, Johannesburg, 2026

To: Human Rights Commission

Subject: Human Rights Violation Complaint Regarding Water Supply Issues in Gauteng

Date: 17 November 2023

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to file a formal complaint with the South African Human Rights Commission concerning the ongoing and severe human rights violations experienced by the residents of Gauteng, due to Rand Water's consistent failure in ensuring access to a reliable water supply.

Description of the Issue:

The residents of Gauteng have been subjected to prolonged and unacceptable water supply challenges, resulting in severe hardships, health risks, and an infringement of their basic human rights. The consistent disruptions and shortages of water have affected various communities across Gauteng causing immense distress and compromising the overall well-being of the residents.

Implicated Parties:

It is evident that the Minister of Water and Sanitation has a role to play in overseeing the province's bulk water supplier – Rand Water, and by extension the organisation's chief executive officer – Mr Siphosiso Mosai. He in turn has a crucial role in overseeing and ensuring adequate water supply to the province. Despite their positions of responsibility, especially Mr Mosai's, there is a consistent failure in addressing and rectifying the persistent issues within Rand Water, and with Rand Water's reservoirs, pipelines, and communication to municipalities.

The combination of these factors has led to a situation wherein municipalities are unable to plan, leaving residents' taps dry. Moreover, in cases where Rand Water supplies directly to residents, thousands of people are left without water for more than a month on end. This is clearly a significant violation of their human rights.

Violations Alleged:

Section 27 of the South African Constitution, which guarantees the right to access to sufficient water, is particularly significant in addressing and mitigating the prevalent water shortages in South Africa. Below, two significant rights which have been violated are mentioned:

1. **Right to Access Clean Water:** The inability to provide consistent and reliable access to clean water violates the fundamental human right to access basic necessities essential for life and health.
2. **Right to Health:** The compromised water supply poses severe health risks to residents, violating their right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health – and one could argue that a violation on this scale goes further than simply the already mentioned, also contravening the right to a healthy environment.

Requested Action:

FREEDOM. FAIRNESS. OPPORTUNITY. DIVERSITY.



Gauteng Provincial Head Office

Tel: +27 10 593 3020

Email: gauteng@da.org.za

www.da.org.za

21 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue, Bruma, Johannesburg, 2026

We request the Human Rights Commission to investigate these violations thoroughly. Additionally, we urge the Commission to engage with relevant authorities, including the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, to ensure immediate action to resolve the water supply issues in Gauteng and hold the responsible parties accountable for their negligence.

In this regard, we also undertake to work alongside the Human Rights Commission in your investigation into these violations by Rand Water.

Conclusion:

The dire situation faced by the residents of Gauteng due to the consistent water supply challenges warrants urgent attention and intervention from the Human Rights Commission. It is ours, and your duty to safeguard the basic human rights of the affected individuals.

We look forward to working alongside you in this investigation.

We trust that the Human Rights Commission will address this matter with the gravity it deserves and take prompt action to rectify these violations.

Sincerely,

John Steenhuisen MP

Solly Msimanga MPL