

08 September 2026

Mr Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi
Premier of the North West Province
Garona Building
South Wing
3rd Floor
Dr James Moroka Drive
MMABATHO
2735

CC:
Mr Mosweu Paul Mogothle
Director-General: Office of the Premier
Garona Building South Wing 3rd Floor
Dr James Moroka Drive
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Dear Mr Mokgosi

**URGENT REQUEST FOR PROVINCIAL INTERVENTION, MEETING AND SITE VISIT
REGARDING THE CONTINUED FAILURE OF SERVICE DELIVERY IN TSWAING LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY**

AfriForum hereby formally requests your urgent intervention regarding the continued and deteriorating failure of municipal service delivery in **Tswaing Local Municipality**, specifically in the towns of **Ottosdal, Delareyville and Sannieshof**.

We respectfully request a meeting with you, or with a senior delegation from your office, and further request that you consider visiting these communities with AfriForum representatives so that the conditions on the ground can be seen firsthand.

We believe that the seriousness of the situation warrants your personal attention. The residents of these towns have endured persistent failures in basic municipal services and infrastructure maintenance. Despite repeated attempts by AfriForum to raise these concerns with Tswaing Local Municipality, many of our representations have either gone unanswered or have not resulted in meaningful and sustainable corrective action. This has created a situation where residents increasingly feel that their complaints are simply being ignored.

1. THE CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

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Member Affairs – Email: ledesake@afriforum.co.za • **Directors:** Ms A. Bailey, Mr P.J.W. Buys, Dr H.K. Coetzee, Mr P.L. Dekker, Mr F.J.D. de Klerk, Mr G.R. de Vries, Dr D.J. Hermann, Mr C.M. Kriel and Dr R. Pretorius. • **Company Secretary:** Mr W.A. Vogel.

Registration number: 2005/042861/08 • **NGO number:** 054 - 590

We recognise that municipalities are responsible for the delivery of many local government services. However, the Constitution also establishes a system of cooperative government and provides mechanisms for provincial oversight of municipalities.

Section 139 of the Constitution provides for provincial intervention where a municipality cannot or does not fulfil an executive obligation in terms of the Constitution or legislation.

We are not requesting that provincial government unnecessarily usurp the functions of the Municipality. Rather, we are asking the Office of the Premier to exercise its constitutional oversight responsibilities and urgently determine whether the continued failures in Tswaing require provincial intervention, support, monitoring or other appropriate action. The Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000 further establishes principles of accountable, responsive and developmental local government and requires municipalities to provide services in a manner that promotes the social and economic upliftment of communities. The continued deterioration of basic infrastructure and services raises legitimate concerns about whether these obligations are being adequately fulfilled.

2. CONDITIONS IN OTTOSDAL

The situation in Ottosdal includes, amongst others:

- Recurring sewage problems, including sewage not being pumped timeously and sewage subsequently flowing into streets.
- Poor maintenance and management of the refuse disposal site.
- Illegal dumping and the deterioration of waste-management conditions.
- Refuse not being removed according to a reliable schedule, resulting in refuse bags being torn open and waste being spread throughout the town.
- Overgrown tree branches in proximity to electricity infrastructure, reportedly causing electrical sparking in front of residents' homes.
- Residents being informed that the Municipality does not have a cherry picker available to address the tree problem.
- Assistance offered by AfriForum reportedly not being accepted.

The Municipality cannot reasonably be permitted to rely indefinitely on a lack of equipment as an explanation for failing to address a known safety risk.

Where specialised equipment is unavailable, alternative lawful means of resolving the problem should be considered.

3. CONDITIONS IN DELAREYVILLE

Delareyville is experiencing many of the same basic service-delivery problems.

Of particular concern is the deteriorating road infrastructure, including potholes and inadequate maintenance. There are also recurring problems with the water supply and water infrastructure. Residents have raised concerns that inadequate preventative maintenance is contributing to failures in the water infrastructure.

AfriForum is further concerned about repeated promises and commitments made by the Municipality that have not been fulfilled.

A municipality must be accountable for commitments made to the communities it serves. Residents should not have to repeatedly approach municipal officials regarding the same problems without receiving clear answers, realistic timeframes and evidence of implementation.

4. CONDITIONS IN SANNIESHOF

The situation in Sannieshof is particularly concerning.

Among the problems reported are:

- Refuse removal that is frequently inadequate or effectively non-existent.
- Explanations that municipal vehicles cannot operate because there is allegedly insufficient money for fuel.
- Non-functioning streetlights.
- Numerous potholes and deteriorating roads.
- Serious concerns regarding the condition and maintenance of the electricity network.
- The ongoing condition of the electricity substation near NWK.
- The substation reportedly remains inadequately protected and covered with plastic.
- Residents report that rain contributes to electricity problems in the town.
- Concerns that inadequate preventative maintenance of the electricity network is contributing to recurring failures.

We have further been informed by residents that a company allegedly responsible for damage to the substation paid compensation to the Municipality, yet the required repairs have apparently still not been completed.

If compensation was in fact received, this matter requires urgent clarification and accountability.

The Municipality should be able to explain whether compensation was received, how it was accounted for and why the infrastructure has not been restored.

5. PREVIOUS REPRESENTATIONS BY AFRIFORUM

Honourable Premier, an important reason for approaching your office is that **AfriForum has already attempted to engage the Municipality on these issues on several occasions.**

The problem is therefore not simply that residents have failed to report the problems.

The problems have been brought to the attention of the Municipality.

AfriForum has attempted to engage constructively and to seek solutions rather than simply criticise the Municipality.

Unfortunately, the response and resulting action have not been sufficient.

Among the matters repeatedly raised by AfriForum are:

- Poor and inconsistent refuse removal in Ottosdal, Delareyville and Sannieshof.
- Problems relating to sewage and sanitation in Ottosdal.
- The condition and management of the Ottosdal refuse disposal site.

- Illegal dumping and inadequate waste management.
- Overgrown trees creating risks around electrical infrastructure.
- The absence of appropriate equipment to deal with dangerous tree branches.
- The deteriorating road infrastructure in Delareyville and Sannieshof.
- Water-supply and water-infrastructure problems in Delareyville.
- Non-functioning streetlights in Sannieshof.
- The condition of the Sannieshof electricity substation near NWK.
- The lack of adequate preventative maintenance on electricity infrastructure.
- Repeated concerns regarding municipal infrastructure maintenance generally.
- Repeated requests for the Municipality to provide meaningful timeframes and corrective-action plans.
- Requests for proper responses to concerns raised by AfriForum and residents.
- The situation in the Henk Joubert Nature Reserve.
- MOU between Tswaing Local Municipality and AfriForum. The municipality refuses to sign a MOU even though AfriForum has made multiple attempts to help the municipality in the problems that they have.

A number of these requests and representations have not received a substantive response.

Where responses have been received, the underlying problems have in many cases remained unresolved.

Copies of the relevant correspondence and previous representations can be made available to your office.

6. THIS IS NOT ONLY A POLITICAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

We wish to emphasise that this is not merely a dispute between AfriForum and a municipality.

The consequences are being experienced daily by ordinary residents.

Sewage flowing into streets presents a potential public-health and environmental risk.

Uncollected refuse creates sanitation and environmental problems.

Deteriorating roads create risks for motorists and pedestrians.

Non-functioning streetlights affect public safety.

Poorly maintained electricity infrastructure can create serious safety risks and contributes to interruptions in electricity supply.

Failures in water infrastructure directly affect residents' ability to access an essential basic service.

These are matters that affect the health, safety, dignity and quality of life of the residents of Tswaing.

7. REQUEST FOR A MEETING WITH THE PREMIER

We therefore respectfully request a meeting with **Honourable Premier**, or a senior delegation specifically mandated by your office to deal with these matters.

The purpose of the meeting would be to:

1. Present the documented service-delivery problems affecting Ottosdal, Delareyville and Sannieshof.
2. Present the correspondence and representations previously submitted to Tswaing Local Municipality.
3. Explain which matters remain unanswered.
4. Discuss the Municipality's infrastructure and service-delivery failures.
5. Determine what provincial assistance or intervention is required.
6. Establish clear responsibilities and timeframes for corrective action.
7. Discuss appropriate mechanisms for monitoring progress.

8. REQUEST FOR A SITE VISIT

In addition to the meeting, we strongly urge the Premier to visit Ottosdal, Delareyville and Sannieshof with representatives of AfriForum and, where appropriate, representatives of the affected communities. We believe that a site visit would provide your office with a substantially better understanding of the seriousness of the situation than written reports alone.

AfriForum is prepared to accompany the Premier or a delegation from the Office of the Premier through the affected areas and identify the relevant infrastructure and service-delivery problems.

We would particularly welcome an opportunity to show the delegation:

- Areas affected by sewage problems;
- The refuse disposal site in Ottosdal;
- Areas affected by illegal dumping;
- Roads and potholes requiring urgent attention;
- Water infrastructure and areas affected by water-supply problems;
- Non-functioning streetlights;
- The electricity substation near NWK in Sannieshof;
- Areas where electricity infrastructure requires maintenance; and
- Other sites identified by affected residents.

9. REQUEST FOR PROVINCIAL OVERSIGHT

We respectfully request that your office investigate whether the continued failures of Tswaing Local Municipality warrant the implementation of appropriate provincial oversight mechanisms.

We further request that the relevant provincial departments assess:

- The Municipality's capacity to provide basic services;
- Infrastructure-maintenance backlogs;
- The implementation of approved municipal budgets;
- Expenditure on basic service delivery;
- The adequacy of preventative maintenance programmes;
- The Municipality's performance against its Integrated Development Plan and Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan;
- The management of refuse and waste-disposal facilities;

- The maintenance of water, sanitation and electricity infrastructure; and
- The Municipality's responsiveness to complaints and representations from residents and community organisations.

Where financial constraints are repeatedly cited as the reason for non-delivery, we believe it is particularly important that the Municipality's budgeting, expenditure and financial-management practices be scrutinised.

For example, where residents are told that refuse cannot be collected because there is no money for fuel, the question must reasonably be asked whether sufficient funds were budgeted for this essential service, how those funds have been spent and whether the Municipality is appropriately prioritising basic service delivery.

10. AN URGENT APPEAL TO THE PREMIER

Honourable Premier, we respectfully urge you not to allow these matters to become another set of unresolved complaints on a municipal correspondence file.

The residents of Tswaing have a right to expect accountable and effective local government. When basic infrastructure deteriorates over an extended period, when refuse is not removed, when sewage flows into streets, when roads deteriorate, when water infrastructure fails and when electricity infrastructure is not adequately maintained, the consequences extend far beyond inconvenience.

The longer these problems remain unresolved, the more expensive the eventual repairs become and the greater the risk to residents. We therefore believe that your personal attention to this matter could make a significant difference. We are not approaching your office merely to request another investigation or another meeting where promises are made.

We are asking for visible provincial leadership, accountability and measurable intervention.

11. OUR REQUEST

We respectfully request that your office:

1. Acknowledge this letter in writing.
2. Arrange a meeting between the Premier, or a suitably authorised senior delegation, and AfriForum.
3. Arrange, preferably in conjunction with the meeting, a site visit to **Ottosdal, Delareyville and Sannieshof**.
4. Engage with Tswaing Local Municipality regarding the outstanding matters raised by AfriForum.
5. Establish which previous AfriForum representations remain unanswered and require formal responses.
6. Request a comprehensive service-delivery recovery plan from Tswaing Local Municipality.

7. Investigate whether provincial intervention, support or oversight is required in terms of the Constitution and applicable legislation.
8. Ensure that urgent public-health and safety risks receive immediate attention.
9. Provide AfriForum with an indication of the steps that the Office of the Premier intends taking and the relevant timeframes.

AfriForum remains willing to engage constructively with the provincial government, Tswaing Local Municipality and the affected communities in an effort to find practical solutions.

We believe that cooperation is possible, but cooperation requires communication, accountability and action.

We therefore respectfully request an urgent response and would appreciate the opportunity to meet with your office at the earliest possible opportunity.

The residents of Ottosdal, Delareyville and Sannieshof deserve nothing less than the attention of the provincial government when basic municipal services and essential infrastructure continue to deteriorate.

We trust that you will give this matter the urgent attention it deserves.

Yours sincerely

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