

13 May 2021

To: C. Frolick

House Chairperson: Committees of the National Assembly

Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

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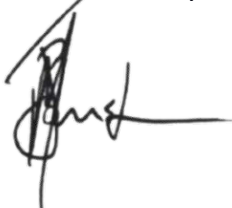
Dear Honourable House Chairperson,

RE: INDEPENDENT WATER REGULATOR FOR SOUTH AFRICA

1. The Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse, also known as OUTA, is funded by ordinary South Africans, as well as small and medium-sized local businesses who believe in and support its civil activism. The funders support OUTA's vision of an engaged and empowered civil society that ensures the responsible use of tax revenues throughout all levels of government.
2. OUTA's core aim is to ensure that tax revenue is expended frugally and lawfully, unimpeded by the rising tide of the inappropriate use of state authority and power. OUTA's central aim is to promote public accountability, transparency, and good public governance. The mandate requires OUTA to investigate and challenge alleged corruption and other acts of poor governance.
3. OUTA and Water Shortage South Africa are of the view that the national water crisis, which is characterized by the following aspects, 1) failing municipal infrastructure, 2) a lack of long-term planning and implementation, 3) the growing failure of sewage treatment plants across the country, and 4) the lack of accountability, constitutes a powerful case for an Independent Water Regulator (IWR).

4. The subject above bears' reference. The first instance of this communication was sent to the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlement, Water & Sanitation on 12 October 2020. We have not received any genuine response to date.
5. Subsequently, we tried communicating through the committee secretary and content advisor, but there does not yet seem to be substantial collaboration between them.
6. It is OUTA's view that, had there been an IWR, effective intervention into municipal affairs would have occurred long before municipalities started to fail in their Constitutional mandate to provide adequate drinking water and sanitation.
7. We believe that the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements, Water & Sanitation is the correct vehicle to establish this much-needed entity, or at least to consider it in full public view where an outright rejection can be put on the record with reasons.
8. Therefore, OUTA and Water Shortage SA must engage with the Committee to present our shared findings and well researched recommendations.
9. To do this, we hereby request your intervention (as discussed before) to get at least some response from the Committee Chairperson, Honourable House Chairperson.

Yours sincerely,



Matt Johnston

OUTA: Head of Research, Policy & Parliamentary Engagement

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