

The Executive Mayor and the City Manager  
City of Cape Town

**BY EMAIL:** [mayor.mayor@capetown.gov.za](mailto:mayor.mayor@capetown.gov.za); [City.Manager@capetown.gov.za](mailto:City.Manager@capetown.gov.za)

18 July 2023

Dear Sirs

**RE: PROVISION OF BASIC SERVICES TO THE RESIDENTS OF GOUDINI, JERUSALEM  
AND COVID IN KRAAIFONTEIN, CITY OF CAPE TOWN**

1. I refer to the above and confirm that ActionSA has been engaging with leaders and residents who live in the informal settlements known as “Goudini”, “Jerusalem” and “Covid” in Kraaifontein, that were erected three years ago during the Covid pandemic.
2. I visited Goudini and Jerusalem on 9 July 2023 and found the following:
  - a. The residents of these settlements do not have access to basic sanitation. Jerusalem, with at least 100 households, has access to only 3 chemical toilets, which are not serviced. Goudini has two chemical toilets which stand on the outskirts of the settlement. It is unclear whether the Goudini community placed them there or if the City of Cape Town did, but they are not being serviced. As a result, residents are using buckets to relieve themselves, which they are then emptying into drains.
  - b. The residents also do not have access to water. The City of Cape Town has not provided any taps, forcing residents to beg for water from neighbouring RDP houses that are serviced.
  - c. Rubbish is not being removed. Skips are overflowing and, while the communities appear to be placing rubbish in the skips and at central points, it is simply lying there festering. We refer you to the photograph appended hereto.
  - d. Raw sewage is flowing through the streets where children are walking and playing. It seems that the sewage is coming out of the overflowing stormwater system and is probably caused by people emptying the buckets into which they have relieved themselves into the drains (as described above).

3. I was informed by residents that a similar situation exists in the settlement known as “Covid”.
4. Despite the fact that the Ward Councillor and the City of Cape Town are aware of the existence of these settlements, no attempt whatsoever has been made to provide services to these residents.
5. As you know, the City of Cape Town has a Constitutional obligation to ensure that these residents are afforded access to basic water and sanitation, and to an environment that is not harmful to their health and wellbeing.
6. The situation in these informal settlements is absolutely dire, and the City of Cape Town has simply turned a blind eye. This is unacceptable and cannot continue.
7. You are requested to provide basic water and sanitation services to these communities, in the form of sufficient stand-pipe water taps and regularly serviced chemical toilets, within 30 days after date hereof, which will afford you the opportunity to determine the extent of the settlements, issue the initial RFQ’s and provide the services to the residents. You are also requested to provide regular refuse removal services.
8. This letter is written with prejudice and failure to comply with this request will leave us with no option other than to approach the High Court for a *mandamus* to compel the City of Cape Town to comply with your constitutional and legislative duties. This will clearly result in legal costs which would be better spent on providing the basic services requested.
9. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Wasserman

ActionSA Provincial Chairperson: Western Cape

*(Unsigned as sent electronically)*