



Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement Western Cape Provincial Parliament IPalamente yePhondo leNtshona Koloni

WCPP11/4/10

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**Tuesday, 17 June 2025 (13h00), Hybrid session in Committee Room 2, 6th Floor, 7 Wale Street,
Cape Town**

Briefing by the WCED on the status of maintenance and construction projects at schools in the
Western Cape.

Present

Democratic Alliance

Van Wyk, LD (Chairperson)
Booysen, M
Walters, TCR

African Christians Democratic Party

Christians, FC

Patriotic Alliance

Stephens, DR

Alternate

Windvogel, R (ANC)
Wessels, D (DA)

Apologies

Sayed, MK (ANC)
Kaizer-Philander, WF

Officials in attendance:

(See attached list of MEC, departmental officials and members of the public who were in attendance.)

1. Opening and welcome

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed all present. The Minister of Education, Mr D Maynier and WCED officials were present at the meeting.

2. Briefing by the WCED on the status of maintenance and construction projects at schools in the Western Cape.

Mr S Abrahams, Deputy Director-General: Education Planning in the WCED, led the presentation.

He informed the Committee that the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) is grappling with significant infrastructure challenges due to a steady rise in learner enrolment, which has grown by 19% over the past decade. With over 1.3 million learners across public and independent schools, the province faces mounting pressure to expand access to quality education. The department has built 57 new schools and 1,892 classrooms since the 2014/15 financial year, yet a backlog of approximately 60 schools remains. Many existing schools are structurally unsound or lack essential facilities such as sanitation, laboratories, and libraries. The WCED's infrastructure strategy includes constructing 244 schools and over 3,400 classrooms by 2030, with a projected capital expenditure of R15.57 billion. However, fiscal constraints and budget shortfalls estimated at R1.9 billion annually pose serious risks to meeting these goals.

To address these challenges, the WCED has launched a Rapid School Build Programme, aiming to fast-track delivery through innovative partnerships and multimodal infrastructure approaches. This includes developing modern school prototypes with advanced facilities, improving spatial distribution, and upgrading energy and water systems. Despite achieving 100% budget utilization and notable progress in maintenance, fencing, and energy upgrades, risks such as contractor failure, community unrest, and inadequate municipal services persist. The department is adopting phased project delivery, scenario planning, and strategic procurement to mitigate these risks and ensure sustainable infrastructure development. The overarching mission remains to provide every child with access to quality learning in a safe, functional environment.

The Committee deliberated on the presentation.

The Chairperson thanked the WCED officials for their contribution.

3. Request for Information

The Committee REQUESTED the WCED to provide:

- 3.1. The names and locations of the 73 schools built.
- 3.2. A list of ECD centres that have been upgraded, including details on land ownership (municipal, private, or departmental) and management responsibilities.
- 3.3. A list of ECD centres that belong to churches and those that belong to the WCED
- 3.4. An update and further clarification regarding the contractual maintenance failures, particularly in areas such as Beaufort West and the Karoo, where contractors reportedly abandoned projects. An explanation of how the WCED addresses these situations to ensure accountability and value for money. The report should include details specific to Merweville Primary School, George Fredericks Primary School in Merweville, and H.M. Dlikidla Primary School in Beaufort West.
- 3.5. A follow-up on 113 schools undergoing water and sanitation upgrades, with a request for a full list to assess coverage and identify gaps.
- 3.6. The progress of the 113 schools undergoing water and sanitation upgrades. This must include a comprehensive list of these schools to allow for an assessment of the geographical coverage and to identify any potential gaps in implementation.

4. Consideration and adoption of Draft Annual Activity Report of the Standing Committee for 2024/2025.

4.1. The Chairperson tabled the Draft programme of the Committee, which was considered and adopted.

5. Consideration and adoption of Draft Minutes of 18 March 2025.

The Chairperson tabled the Draft Minutes, which were considered, amended and adopted.

6. Consideration and adoption of Draft Minutes of 31 March 2025.

The Chairperson tabled the Draft Minutes, which were considered, amended and adopted.

7. Consideration and adoption of Draft Minutes of 06 May 2025.

The Chairperson tabled the Draft Minutes, which were considered, adopted.

Having concluded the business of the day, the Chairperson thanked Members of the Committee.

The Committee meeting adjourned at 15h58.



MPP, MR LD VAN WYK
CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT