



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

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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**DRAFT REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ON AN OVERSIGHT VISIT  
TO THE JAKES GERWEL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL CONDUCTED ON 15 NOVEMBER 2019.**

## **REPORT**

The Standing Committee on Education, having conducted an oversight visit to the Jakes Gerwel Technical High School on 15 November 2019, reports as follows:

### **The delegation**

The delegation of the Standing Committee on Education included the following Members:

Botha LJ (DA) (Chairperson and leader of the delegation)

Kama, M (ANC)

Maseko, M (DA)

Makamba-Boyta, N (EFF)

Sayed, MK (ANC)

### **Apology**

An apology was rendered on behalf of Member G Bosman (DA), Member RI Allen (DA) and Member FC Christians (ACDP).

### **The following parliamentary official accompanied the delegation:**

Ms W Hassen-Moosa, Procedural Officer

## **1. Background**

As part of its oversight mandate, the Committee requested to be kept updated regarding progress with the maintenance of infrastructure, upgrades and the daily management of all schools in the province.

This oversight visit formed part of the Committee's programme. The Committee wanted to visit a school that was in a rural area but also formed part of the unique Collaboration School Programme. The Committee envisaged that the oversight visit would provide in-depth insight into the model of the school: how this model was envisaged and the concept behind this model. It would also allow Members the opportunity to investigate the situation that learners and teachers would have had to deal with if this school had not been built. This school has overcome the social-economic dynamics of the community and achieved success with its learners. This report discusses the Committee's findings gathered during the oversight visit.

## **2. Introduction**

The Committee was welcomed by Mr W de Wet, donor of the Jakes Gerwel Technical High School (hereafter JCT), and by Mr A Mocke, Principal of the Jakes Gerwel Technical High School. Mr Mocke was accompanied by Mr S Cupid, Head of school grades, Mr A Brandt and Mr CD Kuhn, trustees of the school, Ms F Conradie, teacher at the school, Mr N Solomon, Circuit Manager for the area, and Mr J Benjamin, District Director at the Cape Winelands District Office of the Western Cape Education Department (WCED).

During the introduction Mr De Wet stated in his motivation: "God never gives you a dream that matches your budget. He is not checking your bank account; He is checking your faith."

The Chairperson opened proceedings and allowed for brief introductions.

This report discusses the Committee's findings, which were gathered during the oversight visit.

### **3. Key points emanating from the discussion**

- 3.1. The Jakes Gerwel Technical High School is located in Circuit 10 and is a collaboration school with the JGE Funding Trust and the WCED. The building of this new school took six months to complete.
- 3.2. The school was opened in January 2018 for Grades 8 and 9 and in 2019 expanded to Grade 10 and School of Skills (SOS) in year two and year three were introduced. In 2020, Grade 11 and SOS year one and year four will be introduced.
- 3.3. The school presents three focused areas: technical, agricultural and skills or vocational, and the school is the only no-fee school in the province.
- 3.4. The teacher-learner ratio is 22:4. The school has 359 learners and 16 teachers. It is envisaged that, with additional classrooms being built by 2020, the school will accommodate 512 learners and the number of teachers will increase to 33. This will have an impact on the teacher-learner ratio, which will then be 17:1 for Technical High Schools (THS) and 13:6 for SOS.
- 3.5. The school's infrastructure development will see 17 new classrooms and ablution facilities being built to be completed in April 2020. The school hall, three technical workshops, and three technical classrooms will be completed in 2019.
- 3.6. The school offers the following subjects for Grade 10: Afrikaans Home Language, English First Additional Language, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Technical Mathematics, Mathematical Literacy, Physical Science, Technical Science, Agricultural Management Practices, Computer Application Technology, Engineering Graphics and Design, Consumer Studies, Agricultural Technology, Civil Technology (Construction) and Mechanical Technology (Welding and Metalwork).
- 3.7. The school offers the National Schools' Nutrition Programme (NSNP), which feeds 359 learners and has 2 volunteers. The NSNP has three pillars which include: Feeding, Food Production and Nutrition Education and Deworming
- 3.8. Learner transport accommodates 75 learners and will increase to 118 learners in 2020.
- 3.9. There are no MOD centres registered at the school. The school is a full-day school that caters for mass participation. All the learners are encouraged and have the opportunity to participate in various sports and cultural activities.
- 3.10. The normal school hours are 07:30 to 14:15. The afternoon programme starts at 14:30, which includes a study period from 14:30 to 15:30 and a sport and cultural period from 15:45 to 16:45. JGT caters for mass participation of the learners and the following activities are offered during the sport and cultural period: rugby, netball, athletics and cross country, mountain biking, cricket, drama, dance, choir, a chess club, tug-of-war and the learning and reading programme.
- 3.11. Parent involvement is established with a weekly communication in the form of a newsletter to remedy the lack of electronic communication. Regular parent meetings are well attended. Report cards are also collected by parents at school and this creates additional parent-teacher contact. The mentor system further enhances interaction between parents and teachers.
- 3.12. The school has a fully functional alarm system with armed response. There is a fenced perimeter. The agricultural section has electrified fencing. The school has a vacation plan in place and has regular safety drills (quarterly).

- 3.13. The composition of school governing body (SGB) is different from the one outlined in the South African Schools Act, 1996 (Act 84 of 1996), because the school is a collaboration school. The SGB has approved the following composition:
- Eight representatives of the donor body or operating partner (JGE Funding Trust).
  - Three parents who are not employed by the school.
  - One educator at the school.
  - One non-educator at the school.
  - Two learners from Grade 8 or higher elected by the Representative Council of Learners (RCL) from its ranks.
  - The principal of the school.

#### **4. Key achievement emanating from the discussion**

- 4.1. Inclusivity: Mainstream and School of Skills learners integrate seamlessly on the playgrounds and sports fields while being educated separately in the classrooms.
- 4.2. Learner self-esteem and self-worth have been restored in many learners.
- 4.3. Academic achievements by learners in the School of Skills.
- 4.4. Annual prize-giving ceremony illuminated success stories.
- 4.5. Skills-focused curriculum solutions for every child at the JGT given the fact that there is zero drop-out target is achievable with the skills curriculum.
- 4.6. Focus on the restoration of self-worth in learners.
- 4.7. Local community and local businesses are far more involved and they unite in the whole community.
- 4.8. The school started the building the school by initiating parent's involvement and organisations to buy brick in order to build the school.

#### **5. Key challenges emanating from the discussion**

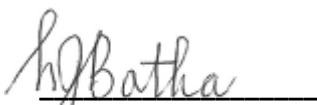
- 5.1. Many overaged learners because of the new opportunity for schooling that has been created.
- 5.2. The academic backlog of learners from feeder primary schools.
- 5.3. Disciplinary challenges because there are a lot of dysfunctional households.
- 5.4. Due to unique curriculum offering, detailed policies and procedures are still being developed.

#### **6. Conclusion**

The Committee successfully concluded its oversight visit and took cognisance of the amazing achievement accomplished by this unique school.

#### **8. Acknowledgment**

The Chairperson thanked Mr De Wet and Mr Mocke and the WCED officials for the engaging discussion.



**MS LJ BOTHA, MPP**  
**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**  
**WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT**