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STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ON ITS OVERSIGHT VISIT TO
SIPHAMANDLA SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL IN KHAYELITSHA**

REPORT

The Standing Committee on Education, having conducted an oversight visit to Siphamandla Senior Secondary School in Khayelitsha on 29 August 2017, reports as follows:

The delegation

The delegation comprised of the following Members:

Kivedo, BD (DA) (Chairperson and the leader of the delegation)
Christians, F (ACDP)
Max, L (DA)
Olivier, RT (ANC)
Wiley, MM (DA)

Parliamentary official:
Ms W Hassen-Moosa, Committee Co-ordinator

1. Introduction

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

This oversight visit formed part the Standing Committee's program following a meeting on 31 January 2017 at which the academic performance of Siphamandla Senior Secondary and Langa High Schools was discussed. According to the briefing by the Western Cape Education Department (WECD) academically, Langa High School performed poorly (under 45% pass rate) and Siphamandlas academic results were very good over the past two years (90% pass rate). The Committee resolved to include oversight visits to both schools in order to assess how the two schools could assist each other in improving academic results. The Committee envisaged the oversight visit would provide in-depth insight into the situation of learners, teachers and other staff and how they conduct their daily duties.

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

2. Overview

The Committee conducted an oversight visit to Siphamandla Senior Secondary School (the School) on Tuesday, 29 August 2017. The visit commenced at 15:00 with a meeting with the Principal, Mr A Magadla, and the departmental officials. During the oversight visit, the principal briefed the Committee on the status of the school. After the meeting, the Committee conducted a walk-about on the school premises.

3. Findings

- 3.1 Siphamandla Senior Secondary School is registered as a Quintile 3 with 34 educators and 1170 learners. The school is situated in the heart of Khayelitsha.
- 3.2 The School achieved over 90% pass rate over the past three years (2014 – 92.4%; 2015 – 95.6% and 2016 – 96.4%).

- 3.3 The School has implemented its School Improvement Plan that consist of the following:-
 - 3.3.1. Set targets;
 - 3.3.2. Monitoring, class visits and Moderation Plan by the District office;
 - 3.3.3. Improvement Plan to improve the performance of the school;
 - 3.3.4. Regular meetings with the District on subject matters;
 - 3.3.5. There are extra classes for learners requiring additional support;
 - 3.3.6. Learners are provided with meals twice a day through the schools' nutrition program;
 - 3.3.7. The School Governing Body (SGB) is functional and assists with management and the governance of the school; and
 - 3.3.8. The District office regularly visited the school.
- 3.4. The key socio economic challenges the school faced are gangsterism, substance abuse and poverty in the community.
- 3.5. The challenges reported by the school were amongst others:-
 - 3.5.1. Cracked walls due to poor infrastructure.
 - 3.5.2. Rusting roof which results in water leakages during winter months.
 - 3.5.3. The School is built in the heart of Khayelitsha and is situated within the informal settlement, which has no sports field available or open spaces for learners
 - 3.5.4. Trespassing has become a problem due to inadequate fencing. The lack of proper fencing has resulted in vandalism and theft that have left the school with inadequate furniture.
 - 3.5.5. The learner: teacher ratio is 1:40, which results in overcrowded classrooms
 - 3.5.6. The School currently has no library facility available.
 - 3.5.7. It was reported that the ITC training for teachers is problematic due to inadequate training offered by the WCED. This has resulted in teachers not utilizing the broadband facilities at the school adequately.
- 3.6. The School Safety Programme:
 - 3.6.1. The School has a Safety Committee that deals with safety issues raised by learners, teachers and parents. Learners utilised this committee by reporting incidents and threats to the Safety Committee chairperson.
 - 3.6.2. There is a School Safety Action Plan in place.
 - 3.6.3. Teachers and learners are familiar with the rules of both the Safety Action Plan and the Safety Committee.
- 3.7. Mr DN Rampersad, Circuit Manager for the School reported that:-
 - 3.7.1. The principal, Mr Magadla, focused on curriculum and the core business of the school.
 - 3.7.2. The principal has implemented a unique approach by tracking the performance of learners from Grades 9 to 12.

4. Recommendations

The Committee recommended that the Department: -

- 4.1. Investigates means to provide consistent and adequate training for teachers in order to utilise the broadband facilities at the school.
- 4.2. Investigates and provides a report on the infrastructure upgrades required at the school.
- 4.3. Investigates the possibility of having a library at the school.

5. Conclusion

The Committee successfully concluded its oversight visit and took cognisance of the situation at the school.

6. Acknowledgements

The Chairperson thanked the School for its willingness to share valuable information with the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee also commended the Siphamandla Senior Secondary School for the outstanding academic achievements and the manner in which they strive to improve their school.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B.D. Kivedo', is written over a horizontal line.

MR BD KIVEDO, MPP
CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT
DATE: 24 November 2017