

# PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

MONDAY, 17 AUGUST 2020

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **The Annual Activity Report of the Petitions Committee for the 2019/2020 financial year is as follows:**

#### **Members**

The Committee comprises of the following members:

Bosman, G (DA) (Chairperson)  
Allen, RI (DA)  
Makamba-Botya, N (EFF)  
Philander, WF (DA)  
Sayed, MK (ANC)

#### **Alternate members:**

America, D (DA)  
Botha, LJ (DA)  
Kama, M (ANC)  
Mackenzie, RD (DA))  
Xego, M (EFF)

#### **1. Introduction**

As part of its mandate, the Petitions Committee must take reasonable steps to inform the citizens of the Province of their rights; take reasonable steps to inform the citizens of the Province of the physical address, fax number, e-mail or postal address where a petition may be submitted; ensure that persons or categories of persons previously disadvantaged by unfair discrimination enjoy full participation in the process of governance; and exercise maximum accountability and transparency in the consideration of petitions in accordance with the Western Cape Petitions Act, 2006 (Act 3 of 2006).

The Committee may resolve a dispute by means of mediation or negotiation, where appropriate, or if requested to do so by a petitioner; and where appropriate, lodge a complaint with the Public Protector in terms of the Public Protector Act, 1994 (Act 23 of 1994), if the conduct of a person or body against whom a petition has been referred, is unsatisfactory.

## **2. Overview of committees activities**

No of Committee meetings	4
No of Public Hearings	0
No of International Study Tours	0
No of Fact Finding Visits	0
No of Cluster Visits	0
No of Provincial Bills considered	0
No of NCOP Bills considered	0
Workshops/conferences attended	0

## **3. Oversight activities**

During the first meeting of the 6th Parliament in June 2019, the Committee resolved to elect Mr. G Bosman as the Chairperson of the Petitions Committee. To get the Members familiar with the WCPP's petitions process and procedures, the Committee Support Section briefed the Petitions Committee on the roles and responsibilities of the Petitions Committee and on Petitions referred to the Committee during the 5th Parliament. The Committee support unit also gave a comprehensive context to the status of each petition before the Committee.

In August 2019, the Committee considered three petitions before the Committee. With regards to the Petition from the Trauma Centre for Survivors of Violence and Torture, the Committee resolved to conclude the petition. The Committee also encouraged the Trauma Centre to continue engaging with the Department of Social Development and provide feedback on the next People's Commission of Inquiry into Child Safety in the Western Cape, which was scheduled to take place in the West Coast region. The Committee further commended the excellent work done by the Head of the Department for Social Development, Dr. R Macdonald, and his team with regards to this petition. The Committee also encouraged the Department of Social Development to continue working with non-governmental organisations on the issue of child murders in the province.

The Chairperson of the Committee tabled the feedback received from the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Ms. P De Lille's, on the Dennehof Centre petition. The Committee resolved to conclude this petition. The Committee further resolved to send a letter to Ms Venter, including the response received from the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure.

The Committee also resolved to conclude the petition from Power Town in Kleinbrak, Mossel Bay. The Committee further resolved to inform the petitioners about the decision of the Committee including the letter received from the Mossel Bay Municipality, explaining the salient elements as to why the municipality could not build permanent housing on the Power Town site.

## **4. Financial particulars**

The Petitions Committee was allocated an amount of R100 000 for the Financial Year 2019/2020 financial year. At the end of the 2019/2020 financial year, expenditure attributed to the activities of the Petitions Committee accumulated to an amount of R5 779.00.

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

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)  
 Makamba-Boyta, N (EFF)  
 Maseko, M (DA)  
 Sayed, MK (ANC)

### **Apology**

An apology was rendered on behalf of Members: G Bosman (DA), RI Allen (DA) and 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 JGT), 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.

### **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 funded by 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 years two and year three were introduced. In 2020, Grade 11 and SOS year one and year four would be introduced.
- 3.3. The school presents three focused areas: technical, agricultural and skills or vocational, and is the only no-fee technical 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 two 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 is no Mass participation; Opportunity and access; Development and growth (MOD) Programme registered at the school. All learners 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 the 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 achieved 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. There are many overaged learners because of the new opportunity for schooling that has been created.
- 5.2. There is an 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.

#### **7. Acknowledgment**

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

### **3. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ON AN OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE WALKING BUS PROJECT TO SPRINGDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL IN MITCHELLS PLAIN CONDUCTED ON 19 FEBRUARY 2020.**

The Standing Committee on Education, having conducted an oversight visit to the Springdale Primary School Walking Bus Project in Mitchells Plain on 19 February 2020, reports as follows:

The Committee as part of its oversight mandate and as part of the State of the Province Address, resolved to undertake an oversight visit to the Springdale Primary School Walking Bus Project in Mitchells Plain. The Committee undertook this visit in order to gain first-hand experience of the successes and challenges of the Walking Bus Project. This is a project of the City of Cape Town but started by the Department of Community Safety.

### **The Delegation**

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

Botha LJ (DA) (Chairperson and leader of the delegation)  
 Allen RI (DA)  
 Kama M (ANC)  
 Sayed MK (ANC)

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

Ms W Hassen-Moosa, Procedural Officer

### **Apology**

An apology was rendered on behalf of Mr FC Christians (ACDP) and Mr G Bosman (DA).

## **1. Inspection of the Walking Bus**

Initially the Department of Community Safety advertised for the rollout of the Walking Bus Project (WBP). The public participation process was conducted in various areas. Rolling out the project were identified based on the area's needs. Community members attended the information sessions that were held as part of the public participation processes. During these sessions, the walking bus routes were determined by the community. The Department of Community Safety scanned the areas and the suggested routes prior to the rollout of the service. These community engagement sessions also served as a screening process for the Department of Community Safety to verify the persons volunteering to participate in the WBP as community members can themselves act as a reference for volunteers applying for recruitment. In order to maintain a database, reference numbers and badges were allocated to all volunteers.

The Walking Bus for Springdale Primary School is part of a larger Walking Bus Project, at present, the project is managed by the City of Cape Town. The larger project that links up with other Walking Busses operating in the Mitchells Plain area and are there to ensure a safe corridor for learners of the schools situated in the area.

The purpose of the WBP is to assist with creating a safe environment for learners to walk to and from their respective schools. Volunteers assist by ensuring that learners are disciplined on their way to and from schools. Volunteers also assist in addressing the truancy levels.

Volunteers are provided with necessary attire, including reflective bibs and whistles. There is also a WhatsApp group to ensure that volunteers are kept updated especially with regards to security related incidents. The Committee inspected and engaged with volunteers of the Walking Bus. Merrydale Avenue has 42 walking bus volunteers.

## **2. Challenges**

The walking bus volunteers informed the Committee that they require more training, such as crowd control and safety measures.

## **3. Recommendation**

The Committee recommends:

- 3.1 That it engages with the Mayor of the City of Cape Town with regards to Cllr G Timm's conduct during the visit.
- 3.2 That the Mayor of the City of Cape Town encourages Councillors, where the walking bus is being rolled out, to engage with the volunteers to ensure that Councillors are aware and understand the work of the walking bus volunteers.

## **4. Conclusion**

The Committee successfully concluded its oversight visit of the walking bus.

## **5. Acknowledgment**

The Chairperson thanked Ms Nazeema from the Walking Bus for the engaging discussion.