

# PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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MONDAY, 28 JUNE 2021

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**1. Report of the Standing Committee on Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport on its oversight visit to the Genadendal Mission Museum, on 12 February 2021**

The Standing Committee on Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport, having conducted an oversight visit to the Genadendal Mission Museum, on 12 February 2021, reports as follows:

**1. The Delegation**

The delegation of the Standing Committee on Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport included the following Members:

Allen RI (DA) (Chairperson and leader of the delegation)  
Bans AP (ANC)  
Mackenzie RD (DA)  
Philander WF (DA)

**Apologies**

Apologies were rendered on behalf of the following Members:

Bosman G (DA)  
Botha LJ (DA)  
Marais PJ (FF Plus)

The following parliamentary official accompanied the delegation:  
Matthews W

## **2. Background**

The Standing Committee on Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport conducted an oversight visit to the Genadendal Mission Museum. The purpose of the visit was to be briefed on the history, successes, challenges and performance of the Museum. The site was identified as part of the pre-State of the Province Address that was also held in Genadendal.

The Museum is a historic establishment as it forms part of the Genadendal mission station complex. The station, reportedly the first of its kind in South Africa, was established 1738 by the Moravian Mission Society.

## **3. Introduction**

The delegation leader, Committee Chairperson Hon R Allen, allowed for brief introductions before handing over to Ms J Balie, the Museum Manager, to lead the presentation. The meeting was opened by Rev R Edson, chairperson of the Museum's Board of Trustees.

## **4. Salient points**

The following are salient points that emanated from the discussion:

- 4.1. The Genadendal mission station is home to South Africa's oldest Teacher's Training College and was established in 1831. The College stores the Museum's vast collection.
- 4.2. One of the Museum's most prized items, a Bible handed to a Khoi convert by the first missionaries, is on display in the Herrnhut House.
- 4.3. The Genadendal mission station is home to at least 25 National Heritage monuments.
- 4.4. The Museum is a provincially-aided facility, funded by the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (the Department).
- 4.5. Ms Balie is the only the official employed by the Department, and there is one other official employed by the Western Cape Education Department. The Museum also has a shortage of maintenance workers, with only two staff members designated to attend to the ongoing repair and restoration of the historic facilities.
- 4.6. The Museum usually welcomes many visitors, be it local or international. However, due to COVID-19 restriction levels, the number of in-person visitors has declined considerably. However, an online digital exhibition programme was launched, ably assisted by the DCAS.
- 4.7. The Museum's marketization has benefitted from an online social media presence as well as other media exposure. These other media platforms include radio interviews and the on-site filming by four television crews, for their respective productions.
- 4.8. The Museum is currently assisting the University of Stellenbosch with a local music research project.
- 4.9. The Museum traditionally hosts several educational and community based programmes. These include education on local history, the history of medicinal plants, national heritage and symbolism, environmental awareness, fire-risk training, cancer awareness initiatives, school speech competitions and other social upliftment events. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, the Museum has conducted community inclusive programmes, where permissible. Some events also include the local South African Police Service staff.
- 4.10. The Museum reported that there are funding concerns, especially with regards to restoration and maintenance of the complex.
- 4.11. The Museum has several volunteers including partnerships with schools from countries such as South Korea and the Netherlands, who often send students to volunteer and

assist the Museum, and the Genadendal community, across various spheres. Two of the volunteers are researchers and are integral in assisting with requests about genealogical records specific to Genadendal (these include birth and marriage registers). The participation of internal volunteers has been affected due to national travel restrictions.

4.12. The digitisation of records is an ongoing challenge.

4.13. The Department's Musée Craft Project is also active at the Museum and the complex. The project, launched in 2019, allows local artists to display and sell their products at the Museum's shop.

## **5. Tour of facilities**

Dr I Balie, former Genadendal Mission Museum Manager, led the tour of the facilities. Dr Balie has extensive knowledge of the history of Genadendal and showed the delegation key sites such as the printing rooms, the musical instruments, and the spinning and pottery exhibitions, among other popular displays.

## **6. Resolutions**

The Committee resolved to:-

6.1 Invite the South African Heritage Resource Agency to discuss the status of the Genadendal Restoration Fund.

## **7. Requests**

The Committee requests:-

7.1. That Heritage Western Cape do an inspection on the Genadendal Mission Museum and provide the Committee with a report on the status, maintenance and areas that need repairs and costing attached to it.

7.2. That the Department provide the committee with the funding period for heritage buildings in the Western Cape.

## **2. REPORT OF THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND PREMIER AND CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS ON THEIR OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE EMIL WEDER SECONDARY SCHOOL AND THE CAPE ACCESS CENTRE IN GENADENDAL IN THE OVERBERG DISTRICT**

The Standing Committees on Education and Premier and Constitutional Matters, having conducted a joint oversight visit to the Emil Weder Secondary School and the Cape Access centre in Genadendal on 16 February 2021, reports as follows:

The Committees as part of their oversight mandate and as part of the State of the Province Address, resolved to undertake a joint oversight visit to the Emil Weder Secondary School and the Cape Access Centre in Gendandal. The Committees undertook this visit in order to gain first-hand experience of the successes and challenges of the school and the region including the broadband connectivity in the school and the Overberg region.

### **The delegation**

The delegation included the following Members:

Mackenzie, RD (Chairperson of the Committee and the delegation)  
 Allen, R I (DA)  
 BakuBaku-Vos, N (ANC)  
 Botha, LJ (DA)  
 Brinkhuis, G (AL-Jama-ah)  
 Philander, WF (DA)  
 Sayed, MK (ANC)  
 Wingvogel, R (ANC)

### **Apologies**

Apologies were rendered on behalf of Members: Bosman, G (DA), Christians, F (ACDP), Dugmore, C (ANC) and Xego, M (EFF).

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

Ms. W Hassen-Moosa, Procedural Officer

#### **1. Overview**

The purpose of this visit was to assess how schools in the Overberg District are dealing with the COVID-19 safety regulations and to check if all Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and the Learner Transport scheme were in place. The Committee also wanted to get an overview of the Overberg Education District. Committees further wanted get a briefing on the broadband connectivity at the schools in the region. The delegation was briefed by officials from the Department of the Premier and the WCED at the Cape Access Centre in Genadendal. After the presentations, the delegation proceeded to the Emil Weder Secondary school to inspect the Leaner Transport Scheme at the School.

#### **2. Presentation on the Broadband Connectivity in the Overberg District**

The delegation was welcomed and briefed by Mr K Groeneveldt, Programme Manager: Cape Access Centres and Mr HR Arendse, Deputy Director-General: Centre for E-Innovation in the Department of the Premier (DotP).

##### **2.1 Key aspects pertaining to the presentation on broadband connectivity**

- 2.1.1 The State Information Technology Agency (herein after the SITA) together with its partner Liquid Telecommunications SA is rolling out a ten-year broadband programme on behalf of the Western Cape Government (herein after the WCG).
- 2.1.2 The scope of the programme includes WCG corporate sites, schools, healthcare institutions, libraries, Cape Access Centres as well as satellite administrative offices and depots of the WCG.
- 2.1.3 The telecommunications network is designed and built to carry data, voice and video communications. It is also capable of providing public internet access through WiFi hotspots on the same infrastructure.
- 2.1.4 In terms of the connectivity to public schools, the Western Cape is the highest penetration of internet for teaching and learning in the country with 86% connectivity at schools across the province. The status of sites connected to broadband across the province is as follows:
  - 281 - Health facilities
  - 1241 – Schools

- 211 - Libraries
  - 29 - Cape Access Centres.
- 2.1.5 The high network speed has improved productivity and service delivery to citizens.
- 2.1.6 The WCG is one of the first entities nationally to switch to Microsoft Teams during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2.1.7 An upgrade to fibre connectivity has recently been completed in the Genadendal/Greyton cluster of sites allowing eight WCG buildings to receive broadband speeds of at least 100Mbps. The sites are as follows:
- Three schools;
  - Two health facilities;
  - Two libraries with Cape Access e-Centres; and
  - One Museum,
- 2.1.8 The above enables the schools to join the global knowledge society, source digital content, conduct video streaming and participate in online training and online meetings. The schools can now fully participate in the initiatives that are part of the WCED's Digital Transformation Strategy.
- 2.1.9 There are 16 sites in the Theewaterskloof Municipality with the public Wi-Fi service: The 16 sites are made up of the following:
- Five schools;
  - Five Health facilities;
  - Three Libraries with Cape Access e-Centres;
  - Two Museums; and
  - One Traffic Facility.
- 2.1.10 With regards to Emil Weder Secondary School and the Overberg Education District's connectivity, schools have technology-enabled classrooms and smart classrooms. To date there are 7 664 classrooms across 544 schools which includes the following:
- Teacher computing device, projection device, interactive device, visualizer;
  - Computer Suites: To date 26 600 Mini PC workstations across 1320 schools have been delivered for Slim Labs;
  - Emil Weder Secondary School has confirmed that the broadband is in good working condition;
  - Wireless Local Area Network: the whole of Emil Weder School since August 2020;
  - SLIM Lab: In order to utilize this connectivity the WCED has provided a SLIM lab;
  - Technology-enabled classrooms and smart classroom roll-out; and
  - Curriculum: Emil Weder is part of the Telematics Project, onsite and offsite, Grade 10-12 tuition and digital resources.

### **3. Presentation on the Emil Weder Secondary School and the Overberg Education District**

Mr T Volkwyn, the WCED Acting Circuit Manager for Genadendal area briefed the delegation. The presentation covered the Emil Weder Secondary School and the Overberg Education District as a whole.

#### **3.1 Key aspects pertaining to the presentation on Emil Weder Secondary School and the Overberg Education District**

3.1.1 The Overberg Education District covers approximately 12 421 square kilometres of the Western Cape.

- 3.1.2 The PPE delivery to Emil Weder Secondary School and all other schools in the Overberg district included the following:
- Disposable Latex and heavy duty gloves;
  - Hand sanitizer in 25 litres;
  - Bleach and multi-purpose disinfectant in 25 litres;
  - Thermometers;
  - Cloth masks for staff and learners;
  - Anti-Bacterial Liquid Hand Soap in 25 litres; and
  - Sanitizer, bleach and anti-bacterial hand soap were delivered in two phases.
- 3.1.3 The leaner: teacher ratios are as follows per grade across the Overberg Education District:
- Multi-Grades are 1: 10.6;
  - Grade 1 are 1:31.2;
  - Grade 2 are 1:31;
  - Grade 3 are 1:29;
  - Grade 4 are 1:31.7;
  - Grade 5 are 1:32.1;
  - Grade 6 are 1:32.8;
  - Grade 7 are 1:30.5;
  - Grade 8 are 1:35;
  - Grade 9 are 1:42;
  - Grade 10 are 1:39.8;
  - Grade 11 are 1:35.2; and
  - Grade 12 are 1:30.9.
- 3.1.4 The Leaner Transport Scheme (herein after the LTS) in the district covers Botrivier, Caledon, Teslaarsdal, Genadendal, Greyton, Bereaville and Riviersonderend. This includes 693 primary school and 528 secondary school learners who are transported on these routes. The average daily cost for the transport per learner is R 1 819 per month.
- 3.1.5 The LTS route 315 from Phisantekraal, Rouxville, Helderstroom, Sunnyside, Uitvlug, Elandskloof, Meerlusthof, Amanzi, Meulrivier, Middelpaas, Spinlea, Spes Bona, Ongegund to Emil Weder Secondary School will be terminated at the end of the first school quarter of 2021 due to the high cost. Based on pleas and representations by parents, the WCED approved that these learners be included on routes 081 and 585 with the necessary extensions from April 2021.
- 3.1.6 Nineteen Schools in Circuit 3 are part of the National School Nutrition Programme. Four thousand, three hundred and thirty seven learners are fed during normal school hours and 898 learners are currently receiving food daily/ food parcels or are fed on alternative days. At some schools teachers delivered food or parcels with their own transport during school holidays. As of 15 February 2021, learners will receive two meals per day – breakfast and a main meal. At Emil Weder Secondary School they feed 50 learners with one volunteer.
- 3.1.7 There were nine burglary and vandalism cases reported at schools in the district since January 2020 to January 2021 and 12 individual cases were reported to Safe Schools.
- 3.1.8 The support was provided through the following:
- Providing access control mechanisms eg. electronic safety gates/ upgrading of intercom systems/ burglar bars/ stone guards;
  - Emil Weder School received safety gates in 2018; and
  - Providing holiday security (on 12 to 24 hour shifts).
- 3.1.9 All schools in the district are on a WCED scheduled maintenance list based on condition assessments conducted. Scheduled maintenance is currently underway at Emil Weder Secondary School. Emergency maintenance requests are dealt with by the Directorate

Infrastructure Delivery of the WCED in conjunction with the Department of Public Works and Transport.

- 3.1.10 Emil Weder Secondary School and Swellendam Secondary School had recent hostel upgrades.

#### **4 Challenges experienced by schools in the Overberg Education District**

- 4.1 The stealing of the school's perimeter fence.
- 4.2 The intensity in which burglary and vandalism are taking place in the District.
- 4.3 Schools' lack of funding in order to put other mechanisms or access control measures in place to protect and maintain school buildings in the District.
- 4.4 The decrease in the Safe Schools budget in 2020 resulted in access control mechanisms that could not be put in place at identified schools.
- 4.5 The Safe Schools Committees are in place but in certain schools they are not functional.
- 4.6 There are critical accommodation needs in high and primary schools in Grabouw and Hermanus.
- 4.7 There is a lack of fencing at few farm schools.
- 4.8 There is over utilisation of primary schools in the Zwelihle area.
- 4.9 The neglect of the maintenance of leased schools. Most of these schools are in poor condition.

#### **5 Acknowledgments**

The Committees wishes to extend a word of thanks to the WCED officials, principals, teachers and the officials from the Department of the Premier.