



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

Ref Number: 11/4/1/2/7

Report of the Standing Committee on Transport and Public Works on its oversight visit to Hawston Primary School as follows:

Delegation

The Delegation consisted of the following members:

Hinana, NE (Chairperson and leader of the Delegation)
Dugmore, CD
Mackenzie, RD
Nkondlo, ND

An apology was received from Member M Mngasela.

The Committee Co-ordinator, Ms S Niekerk, accompanied the Delegation.

1. Introduction and Background

Section 114 (2)(b)(i) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, mandates provincial legislatures to provide for mechanisms to maintain oversight over the Provincial Executive Authority in the province. To this end the Standing Committee on Transport and Public Works undertook an oversight visit to the Hawston Primary School in Hawston. The purpose of the visit was to follow up on the completion of the construction work at the school as reported by the Department of Transport and Public Works (the Department).

In October 2015 it was reported by the Department that learning at the school was disrupted following a declaration by engineers that the school was unsafe due to structural defects resulting from poor construction. A lack of requisite skills by the Project Design Engineer was cited as one reason for the defective structures. In addition, a lack of specialised structural expertise in engineering within the Department, coupled with reduced project design specifications and documentation, as well limited official scrutiny and a lack of verification of Engineering Professional Services Provider (PSP) documents were also contributing factors to the poor outcome. The Department then took the decision to evacuate the building as the possible loss of life was not worth a delay in the education programme. Temporary classrooms were then erected adjacent to the Hawston Secondary School on the Secondary school's precinct. This situation was not conducive to teaching and learning.

The Hawston Primary School Project formed part of the National Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI) managed by the Department of Basic Education (DBE).

The Committee has relentlessly exercised its oversight role on the remedial progress at the school and expressed its concern about the impact that these delays are having on the learners. The Hawston Primary School site was visited by the Committee as part of the Service

Delivery Cluster Visit week in May 2016. Following this visit, the Committee conducted follow up meetings in September 2016 and February 2017.

2. Overview

The Committee visited the Hawston Primary School on Tuesday, 28 February 2018, and met with officials from the Department, the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) and the Overstrand Municipality. The engagement commenced with a site inspection followed by a brief meeting.

3. Findings and observations

- 3.1 The Committee is pleased to announce that, due to its effective oversight, the new school has now been completed and the learners and educators have taken occupation of the school.
- 3.2 The school boasts modern design and technology within the norms and standards of the DBE and the WCED. It has a storm water system with a water collection tank constructed underneath the building that provides water for irrigation. This is the new sustainable environmental approach to collect as much water as possible so that the property can be self-sustainable.
- 3.3 After the removal of the mobile classrooms on the premises of the Hawston Secondary School, it was discovered that the sports field was severely damaged. As part of the agreement between the WCED and the Hawston Primary School, an undertaking was made by the WCED that the field on which the temporary accommodation was constructed will be cleared and rehabilitated once the new school has been completed. It has been more than a year since the primary school vacated the premises and more than five months since the contractor has removed the mobile classes and no attempt has been made to rehabilitate the site. Learners at the secondary school are inconvenienced as they now have to be transported to a municipal field for sports practices.
- 3.4 There is a water leakage which has had a huge impact on the school's utility bill resulting in a penalty being imposed by the Overstrand Municipality.
- 3.5 It was also reported to the Committee that there is insufficient ventilation in the hall kitchen, that there are leaking toilets and that there is irregular water supply to the toilets.

4. Recommendation

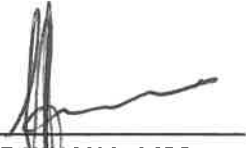
The Committee RECOMMENDED that: the Western Cape Education Department provides feedback to the Department of Basic Education in terms of their set norms and standards as well as its practicality in relation to Hawston Primary and invite the DBE to the school to discuss the norms and standards and its relevance to that particular school.

5. Resolution

The Committee RESOLVED that, as part of its oversight function, it would investigate the progress on the rehabilitation of the sports field, the ventilation in the hall kitchen and the water leakage.

6. Acknowledgements

The Chairperson thanked the officials from the Department of Transport and Public Works, the Western Cape Education Department and the Overstrand Municipality and expressed the Committee's satisfaction with progress made in respect of the infrastructure.


NE NIDANA, MPP

CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS

DATE: 24/4/2018

