



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

REPORT

The Standing Committee on Education, having conducted an oversight visit to Langa Senior Secondary School in Langa on 18 April 2017, reports as follows:

The delegation

The delegation comprised of the following Members:

Kivedo, BD (DA) (Chairperson and the leader of the delegation)
Botha, LJ (DA)
Max, L (DA)
Olivier, RT (ANC)

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 emanated during a Standing Committee meeting of 28 February 2017 whereby the Committee reviewed its programme, The Committee resolved to undertake an oversight to Langa Senior Secondary School in Langa.

It was brought to the attention of the Standing Committee that Langa Senior Secondary School is part of the Collaborating Schools Project. The school has under gone numerous changes including management and the academic performance of the school has had a downward spiral over the past four years. The main focus of this oversight visit was to understand and observe how learners and teachers are now coping with these changes.

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

2. Overview

The Committee conducted an oversight visit to Langa Senior Secondary School on Tuesday, 18 April 2017. The visit started with a meeting with the Acting Principal, Mr Magugu, and the Departmental officials and Members of the Ocean 2 Education Foundation which is part of the Collaborating schools at 14:00. During the oversight visit, the Acting 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. The school leadership has changed in the past four years:
Ms Ndlovu: Acting Principal employed since 01 January – 31 May 2016
Ms Mjali: A care-taker Principal employed by the WCED from 1 June – 31 December 2016
Mr Magugu: Current Acting Principal appointed on 1 January 2017
- 3.2. The Collaboration Project was resisted within the school after having resistance from the community. The pilot project aimed at providing a different way of operating public schools by: Strengthening the quality of public schools; Demonstrating effective models of public school management; Strengthening public school governance models; developing educators and implementing interventions aimed at improving the quality of public school education for learners from the poorest areas.
- 3.3. Over the past four years the school's academic results has deteriorated and the current subjects Mathematics (17,7%), Physical Sciences (17,8%), Accounting (26,6), Economics (27,6%), Geography (29%) and Mathematics Literacy (29,4%) attained a final average that is below the Department's 30% pass mark.
- 3.4. The following subjects Life Sciences (30,9%), Business Studies (31%), Agricultural Sciences (35,1%) and History (37,5%) is below the average of 40% required by learners to achieve a Bachelor Pass.
- 3.5. The School has an implementation Strategy on the following:
 - 3.5.1 The 2016 results confirmed the poor state of the school culture of teaching and learning.
 - 3.5.2 Two-tiered implementation plan was devised with the support of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP):
 - 3.5.2.1 A whole-school strategy
 - 3.5.2.2 A classroom-based strategy
 - 3.5.3 This plan is implemented by the principal and the School Management Team (SMT) with the support of the SOP.
 - 3.5.4 SMT will be trained and developed to support the development of the instructional delivery in the school.
- 3.6. External strategies involve:
 - 3.6.1 UCT's SDU: Providing teachers with opportunities to improve their subject knowledge.
 - 3.6.2 INSTILL: Providing teachers with opportunities to increase the effectiveness of their instructional delivery.
 - 3.6.3 Mentoring and support of the principal and SMT to increase the leadership capacity within the school.
- 3.7. Internal strategies to assist the school in improving problem areas:
 - 3.7.1 Monitoring and encouraging an improvement in teacher's school attendance.
 - 3.7.2 Introducing data driven instruction with targeted academic interventions.
 - 3.7.3 Doing internal school audits.
 - 3.7.4 Increasing compliance with the National Department of Basic Education and the Western Cape Education Department policies and procedures.
 - 3.7.5 Implementing a more effective teacher attendance monitoring system.
 - 3.7.6 Working on decreasing the incidents of late coming among the students.
 - 3.7.7 Patrolling the school grounds to increase security and decrease the incidents of bunking.
 - 3.7.8 Changing the structure of the timetable to improve the effectiveness of the instructional time available to the students.
 - 3.7.9 Redistributed the subject load among the teachers to minimise the number of individual subjects a teacher is responsible for continuing with the Saturday classes.
 - 3.7.10 Drafting a disciplinary policy that is in accordance with departmental guidelines.
 - 3.7.11 Built a relationship with the SAPS station in Langa and the Community Police Forum to ensure random searching for weapons and drugs at the school.

- 3.8 There is a student support service in the school focused on offering psycho-social support to the learners.
- 3.9 The School has a sports coach based at the school resulting in a flourishing sports curriculum and extra-curricular programme.
- 3.10 The School has re-energised Matric celebrations within the school.
- 3.11 The School has planned quarterly parent meetings, regular feedback letters, sms reminders.
- 3.12 The School has presented an alternative recruitment and enrolment process.
- 3.13 The School has organised a meeting with feeder-school principals to motivate their students to attend Langa Senior Secondary School.
- 3.14 The infrastructure of the school has improved.
- 3.15 The School is In the process of revitalising the school library.

4. Information requested

The Committee requests the Department to provide the following information by 31 August 2017.

- 4.1. A copy of the Collaborating School strategy.
- 4.2. A report on the first quarter results for 2017.
- 4.3. An audit report on teacher's qualifications for Langa Senior Secondary School.

5. Recommendations/Concerns:

The Committee recommends that:-

- 5.1. At the Committee meeting of 31 January 2017, the Department informed the Committee that Langa Senior Secondary School has appointed a principal but upon inspection it was discovered that the school still has an acting principal and that the process is still under way. Committee request that still process be haste as this process had to be completed in January 2017 already.
- 5.2. The Department investigates why the security system at the school is currently inoperative.
- 5.3. The Department briefs the Committee on Collaborating Schools including the successes and challenges faced by this initiative.
- 5.4. The Committee raised its concern with regards to the Mathematics results and request intervention by the Department to improve these results.
- 5.5. That the Department ensures that through the District office and the school, the late arrival of learners be addressed and report back to the Committee.

6. Conclusion

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

7. Acknowledgements

The Chairperson thanked the school for its willingness to share valuable information with the Standing Committee.

