



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

Ref Number: 11/4/1/2/10

---

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ON AN OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE  
ST MICHAEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL IN GRABOUW**

## REPORT

The Standing Committee on Education, having conducted an oversight visit to St Michael's Primary School in Grabouw on 12 September 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, learner transport and the daily management of all schools in the Province.

The purpose for conducting an oversight visit to the St Michael's Primary School was to assess the dangers learners face when crossing the N2 when walking to and from school. The oversight visit to the school during the Social Cluster Visit Week in May 2016 was cancelled following reported security concerns in areas near the school. The decision was made based on information provided to the social cluster delegation by the SAPS an hour prior to the planned visit to the school. The delegation was however informed by the Western Cape Education Department's Overberg District office during the course of the week ending 20 May 2016 that learner transport was allocated to the St Michael's Primary School. In this regard, learners no longer needed to cross the N2 by foot en route to and from the school. The allocation of the transport facility significantly minimised the dangers associated with learner mobility to and from the school.

The Social cluster delegation recommended that the Standing Committee on Education embark on an oversight visit to St Michael's Primary School to assess the learner transport at the school.

### 2. Overview

The Committee conducted an oversight visit to St Michael's Primary School on Tuesday, 12 September 2017. The visit started at 15:00 with a meeting with the Principal, Mr R Smith, 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. St Michael's Primary School in Grabouw was established in 1960 to service the community of Grabouw.
- 3.2. Currently the school has reached its capacity with regards to classroom space and is in dire need of three prefabricated classrooms. The school still needs to apply to the Western Cape Educational Department (WCED) for these additional classrooms.

- 3.3. The infrastructure and maintenance of the school is consistently being maintained by the farm owners as part of a Memorandum of Understanding between the school and the farm owners.
- 3.4. The School Governing Body (SGB) is functional at the school and assists in the management and governance of the school. According to the principal, Mr Smith, the SGB's role is commendable, however the members lack the necessary levels of education, skills and aptitude to perform their duties. He further reported that the school assists SGB members with the necessary training.
- 3.5. The teacher-learner ratio is 1:47, with a staff complement of six.
- 3.6. Academic performance of the school is between 70% and 100% pass rate.
- 3.7. Most learners experience learning barriers.
- 3.8. The school requires an upgrade of the girls and boy's ablution blocks (toilets).
- 3.9. Learner transport had a negative impact on the school during the winter months as learners are reluctant to attend school.
- 3.10. The school together with the District office has made provision for learner transport and also started the learner transport application in April 2017 for the 2018 academic year.
- 3.11. The school highlighted the challenge of proper fencing as they had to deal with baboons entering the school.
- 3.12. The school requires a proper sports field in order to support learners with sporting activities.
- 3.13. The computer lab of the school is non-functional and requires upgrades as most of the equipment is outdated.

#### **4. Recommendations/Requests for Information**

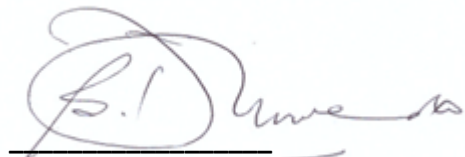
- 4.1. The Committee recommended that the District office considers building another school in the area, given the growing need in the community of Grabouw.
- 4.2. The Committee requests that WCED provides its academic results (of all its grades) for the period 2014 to 2017 and submit by 15 January 2018.

#### **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.



**MR BD KIVEDO, MPP**

**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT**

**DATE: 31 October 2017**