

# WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT



## 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

**16 FEBRUARY 2021**

## **REPORT**

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 Genadendal. 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, RI (DA)  
BakuBaku-Vos, NG (ANC)  
Botha, LJ (DA)  
Brinkhuis, G (AL-Jama-ah)  
Philander, WF (DA)  
Sayed, MK (ANC)  
Windvogel, R (ANC)

### **Apologies**

Apologies were rendered on behalf of Members: Bosman, G (DA), Christians, FC (ACDP), Dugmore, CM (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 Learner 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 was 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.



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**MR RD MACKENZIE, MRP**

**ACTING CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PREMIER AND CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

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