



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

WCPP 11/4/10

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Tuesday, 10 May 2022 (13:00), Virtual Meeting via MS Teams

Briefing by Equal Education Law Centre (EELC) on the issues relating to learner admissions in the Western Cape

Briefing by the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) on the Mathematics and Language Strategy

#### PRESENT

#### Members:

##### **Democratic Alliance**

Baartman, DM (Chairperson)

Kaizer-Philander, W

##### **African National Congress**

Sayed, MK

##### **Additional Members**

Brinkhuis, G (Al Jama-Ah)

Mackenzie, RD (DA)

##### **Apology**

Christians, FC (ACDP)

(See attached list of departmental officials and members of the public who were in attendance.)

#### **1. Welcome**

The Chairperson welcomed all and allowed for brief introductions.

#### **2. Briefing by the Equal Education Law Centre (EELC) on issues relating to learner admissions in the Western Cape**

Ms. A Maistry, Senior Attorney, EELC, and Mr. Y Piliso, Candidate Legal Practitioner, led the presentation.

The EELC reported that it had observed an incredible number of learners being unplaced in grades one and eight. The EELC was alarmed by the unwillingness of the districts to assist the

parents and caregivers regarding the placement of their children. The parents were either told that schools were already oversubscribed and they must apply for the 2023 academic year, or they were merely turned away by the district, without any support or assistance. The EELC also noted that several parents and caregivers who approached EELC lacked knowledge entirely regarding applications that were made online. They were also unaware that applications could be made through the district or pop-ups.

The Committee deliberated on the presentation.

**3. Briefing by the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) on the Mathematics and Language Strategy and the following:**

- (i) The aging of technical teachers in the schooling system and whether the WCED has a strategy to encourage young technical teachers to teach these subjects.**
- (ii) Training Colleges for technical teachers with regards to teaching learners in schools of skills and special needs schools.**

Mr. H Mahomed, Deputy Director-General: Curriculum and Assessment Management, WCED, and Mr. L Abrahams, Director of School Enrolment, WCED.

The WCED briefed the Committee on the Language and Mathematics strategy, aiding school teachers, encouraging technical teachers, and special needs schools. The WCED reported that it was in consultation with stakeholders to develop a strengthened Maths strategy to improve maths in the province. This was in response to reflections on previous interventions, COVID-19 pandemic losses in curriculum, support of the WCED STEAMAC, and improved performance in all grades.

The presentation discussed details of the maths pass rate since 2011 and the language pass rates and how this strategy was different from an earlier version

The Committee deliberated on the presentation.

**3. Information requested**

The Committee REQUESTED the following information:

- 3.1. The Provincial Treasury to provide quarterly updates that were published in the 'Budget Overview of Municipal and Investment 2022' on pages 149 until 152. According to these reports, the WCED infrastructure will be new, upgraded, or maintained for the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24, and 2024/25.
- 3.2. EELC to provide a copy of the overview of municipal and provincial Infrastructure Investment 2022.
- 3.4. EELC to provide details of learners out of school as indicated in the presentation of EELC that includes the research and details that the report was based on;
- 3.5. WCED to provide an updated number of unplaced learners since March 2022 in writing. The information is to be forwarded to EELC.
- 3.5. WCED to provide the list of names of the WCED officials who did not permit the filling in of forms and what reasons were given for refusal so that the matter could be sent to the WCED for their attention and feedback.
- 3.6. WCED to provide information material pertaining to Maths and Language Strategies such as:
  - Booklet, pamphlets, and material; and

- Updates on workshops, webinars, and other events;
- 3.7. WCED to provide a report on getting drones in schools;
  - 3.8. WCED to provide a report on taking the appeals process online

#### **4. Resolution**

The Committee RESOLVED to schedule a briefing by the WCED on the STEAMAC (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, Agriculture and Coding) subjects relating to arts, agriculture, coding, and computers for the new industries established in the provinces.

Having concluded the business of the day, the Chairperson thanked the Members of the Committee, EELC, and the WCED officials for their contribution.

The Committee adjourned at 16h30.



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**ADV DM BAARTMAN, MPP**  
**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**  
**WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT**  
**Date: 23 August 2022**

