

# WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT



## REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ON ITS UNANNOUNCED OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE SAXONSEA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN ATLANTIS

**21 FEBRUARY 2023**

## REPORT

The Standing Committee on Education (hereafter the Committee) having conducted an unannounced oversight visit to the Saxonsea Junior High School in Atlantis on 21 February 2023, reports as follows:

### **The delegation**

The delegation of the Standing Committee on Education included the following Members:

Baartman, DM (DA) (Chairperson of the Committee)  
Fry, C (DA)  
Plato, D (DA)

### **Apologies**

Christians, FC (ACDP)  
Sayed, K (ANC)

### **The following parliamentary official accompanied the committee:**

Ms. W Hassen-Moosa, Procedural Officer

## **1. Overview**

The purpose of the visit was to assess the quality of the school's new building. The visit was carried out as part of the Committee's resolution to visit various sites where Rapid School Build projects were being conducted.

## **2. Visit to the Saxonsea Junior High School in Atlantis**

Mr. D Claasen, the school's Principal, Ms. W Horn, the Director for the Education District's Metro North, Mr. R Andrews, the school's Circuit Manager, and Mr. G Coetzee, the Director: Physical Resource Planning and Property Management welcomed the Committee and accompanied them during the inspection of the school.

### **2.1. Key aspects discussed at the school**

In November 2022, the Minister of Education, Mr D Maynier announced that the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) would be investing over R830 million in the construction of 842 new classrooms.

The department informed the Committee that the construction of the new schools is the first time that the department has undertaken such a massive project, with 654 new classrooms built in various districts of the province. The projects that were carried out during the Rapid School Build programme included the construction of 101 new classrooms in Atlantis, Delft, Lwandle, Hout Bay, and Century City. In November 2022, Mr Maynier revealed that the WCED had finished 164 classrooms for 2023. He also announced that a further 510 classrooms would be completed by January 2023.

The number of classrooms that the WCED had completed during the 2022 academic year reached 662 by 31 January 2023. A total, of 180 classrooms were currently in the process of being completed.

During the inspection, Ms. Horn provided the Committee with an update on the school's new construction.

Due to the increasing number of learners in the area, the Saxonse Secondary School decided to give up a portion of its property for the construction of a junior high school.

The school's construction project includes nine classrooms, a learning resource centre, an admin facility, and ablution facilities. The resource centre can also be used as a hall. The project was carried out using a light steel frame structure and cladding. The administration and ablution facilities were constructed using bricks and mortars.

Ms Horn reported that the construction of the school was made possible through the cooperation of various stakeholders. These include the School Governing Body, the contractors, the community, and the officials of the WCED. The school intends to accommodate more learners from Grades 8 to 9 with this extension.

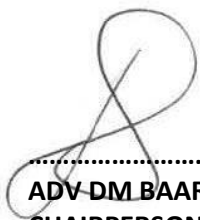
It was reported that the construction of the school started on 3 October 2022. The classrooms and the learning resource centre were completed on 16 January 2023. Construction of the building took 65 working days. Mr Coetzee informed the Committee that the project costed about R40 million, and it never exceeded its budget.

### **3. Conclusion**

The Committee successfully concluded its oversight visit and took cognizance of the amazing new rapid-build school visited.

### **4. Acknowledgments**

The Committee thanked the WCED, the principal, and the teachers at the school visited.



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**ADV DM BAARTMAN, MPP**  
**CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**  
**WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT**  
**DATE: 13 June 2023**