



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

REPORT

The Standing Committee on Education, having conducted an oversight visit to Cedar Primary School in Bonteheuwel on 18 August 2015, reports as follows:

The Delegation

The delegation comprised of the following Members:

Kivdeo, BD (DA) (Chairperson and the leader of the delegation)
Botha, LJ (DA)
Christians, FC (ACDP)
MacKenzie, RD (DA)
Olivier, RT (ANC)

The following Parliamentary officials accompanied the delegation:

Ms W Hassen-Moosa, Committee Co-ordinator
Mr A Barends, Driver

1. Introduction

As part of its oversight mandate, the Committee requested to be kept updated regarding the progress of maintenance of infrastructure, upgrades and the daily management of all schools in the Province.

During the Committee meeting of 23 June 2015, the Committee was informed about the arson attack at the Cedar Primary School in Bonteheuwel in June 2015. The Committee resolved to undertake an oversight visit to the school. The aim of the visit was to assess the impact of the arson attack, reported cases of vandalism and the general challenges the school faces.

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

2. Overview

The Committee conducted an oversight visit to Cedar Primary School on Tuesday, 18 August 2015. The visit started with a meeting at 14:00, with the principal, teachers and the Departmental officials. During the oversight visit, the principal, Ms C Symonds briefed the Committee on the status of the school. After the meeting, the Committee conducted a walk about of the School premises.

3. Findings

3.1 Cedar Primary School was decreed as a no-fee school in 2014.

- 3.2 The School has been the victim of much vandalism and arson attacks in 2015 and as a result sustained major damages to its administration block.
- 3.3 The entire school is a construction site thus leaving learners with construction workers in and out of the school all day long.
- 3.4 The school utilises portable toilets while construction is under way at the school, which has lead to irregular cleaning which has exposed many learners and teachers to infections.
- 3.5 The school does not have adequate fencing which would keep all predators off the school grounds.
- 3.6 There is a dumping site across the school entrance which affects learners and lure vermin such as rats, mice etc. to the school.
- 3.7 The school is situated in the middle of four different gangs which means that on numerous occasions, learners are caught in the cross fire of gang violence.
- 3.8 The school sports field needs assistance with upgrades.

4. Recommendations

The Committee RECOMMENDED that the Department:

- 4.1. Review the utilization of portable toilets.
- 4.1. Make sure that the school has adequate fencing of its perimeter.
- 4.1. To report the dumping site across from the school to the City of Cape Town, in order to clean the area.
- 4.2 Provide assistance to upgrade the school sports field.
- 4.3 Consider utilising the Resource Officer for Cedar primary School in order to improve security.

5. Conclusion

The Committee successfully concluded its unannounced oversight visit and took cognisance of the urgency of the challenges experienced at the school. The school need support in their endeavors to succeed against the backdrop of the challenges noted in this report.

6. Acknowledgements

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



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MR BD KIVEDO, MPP
CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
DATE: 19 October 2015