



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

REPORT

The Standing Committee on Education, having conducted an unannounced oversight visit to Uitzig Senior Secondary School in Uitsig on 9 February 2016, 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)
Christians, FC (ACDP)
MacKenzie, RD (DA)
Olivier, RT (ANC)

The following Parliamentary official accompanied the delegation:
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, upgrades and the daily management of all schools in the Province.

During the Committee meeting of 2 February 2016, the Committee was informed about the dire conditions experienced by the learners of Uitzig Senior Secondary School. The Committee resolved to undertake an unannounced oversight visit to the school. The aim of the visit was to assess the infrastructure problems and the general challenges faced by the school.

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

2. Overview

The Committee conducted an oversight visit to the Uitzig Senior Secondary School on Tuesday, 9 February 2016. The visit started with a meeting with the Principal and the Departmental officials at 14:00. During the oversight visit, the Principal, Mr C du Preez, 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. The school has suffered attacks by vandals and continues to experience these attacks.
- 3.2. The school's toilets have not been maintained for years, which left the structure in an unsafe condition. Most of the toilets are not functioning properly.
- 3.3. The school does not have adequate fencing and this leaves the school vulnerable to intruders.
- 3.4. The school only has electricity in the Administration Block. The rest of the school does not have electricity.
- 3.5. The school lacks adequate equipment in the kitchen area in order to prepare proper meals for the learners.
- 3.6. More than one window of many of the classrooms at this school are broken.
- 3.7. The poor condition of the school requires that an entire new school be built or that the school's infrastructure be completely upgraded.

4. Recommendations

The Committee RECOMMENDED that:

- 4.1. The Committee report be referred to the Western Cape Education Department for investigation and that the Department provides the Committee with a progress report or plan to deal with the situation at Uitzig Senior Secondary School by 29 April 2016.
- 4.2. Minister Schäfer engages with Provincial Treasury to secure the necessary resources as an interim measure and to provide Uitzig Senior Secondary School with an alarm system and armed response.
- 4.3. Minister Schäfer engages with National Treasury to revise the allocation of the R530 million grant which was taken from the Eastern Cape Province, could be allocated to the most destitute schools, such as the Uitzig Senior Secondary School, that requires an upgrade and deals with serious gang issues.

5. Conclusion

The Committee successfully concluded its unannounced oversight visit and took cognisance of the urgency of the challenges experienced by the school. The school needs support in its endeavours to succeed against the backdrop of the challenges noted in this report.

6. Acknowledgements

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

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MR BD KIVEDO, MPP

CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

DATE: _____