

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, CULTURE, SPORTS AND RECREATION ON THE SITE VISITS CONDUCTED DURING THE TAKING LEGISLATURE TO THE PEOPLE AT MKHONDO MUNICIPALITY (PIET-RETIEF)-KEMSIDING COMBINED SCHOOL, ON THE 28 FEBRUARY 2012

1. Introduction

The Portfolio Committee on Education, Culture, Sports and Recreation undertook site visits to Kemsiding Combined School in the province. Officials from the Department of Education and circuit offices accompanied the Portfolio Committee.

2. Purpose

The site visits were mainly to ascertain the reasons for the poor examination results attained by the school in 2011 and whether or not the recovery plan is assisting the learners in preparations for the 2012 final examination, and thereafter to establish whether or not corrective measures had been put in place. These measures would also include the role of the various education offices and officials from circuit level to the Provincial Department of Education.

3. Method of work

The Portfolio Committee met with the School Management Team (SMT), School Governing Bodies (SGB), Learners Representative Council (LRC) educators and officials from the Department of Education.

The purpose of the visit was explained and in turn they were requested to make inputs, which in their opinion were contributory factors to the poor results in the 2011 grade 12 examinations.

4. Findings

The Portfolio Committee on Education, Culture, Sport and Recreation made the following observations as factors that, among others, could have contributed to the poor pass rate:

4.1. School Management Team

The Kempsiding Combined School is a rural school, starting from grade R to 12, and the school has 41 learners in grade R. The total number of learners in the school is 825. The school offers FET streams and in commercial stream the following subjects are offered, Accounting/Tourism, Economics, Business Studies, and in science stream, Physical Science, Life Sciences and Tourism.

The school also has feeder schools around Amsterdam circuit which is Mehlomamba High school, Nokuthula High school and Holdeshein High School, Pietretief Circuit is Madoda High School, Kleinvrystaat High School and Blesbokspruit High School. The school is rated at quintile 2 due to the nature of environment and it was also indicated that most parents are unemployed around the area.

4.2 Scholar Transport

The majority of learners are provided with scholar transport and 85 learners are using bicycles as a means of transport to school. There are 384 learners transported from Derby and 158 learners, and the total number of learners provided with transport is 542.

4.3 Learners support material

Most learners are without textbooks and the Department has delivered incorrect textbooks to the school. Learners are making copies of textbooks and the department is not assisting in this regard.

4.4 School Governing Body

There are no regular meetings amongst the SGB and educators, it was also mentioned that most parents are not attending to school meetings or supporting school activities. The SGB has observed that some of contributory factors lead to higher failure rate, educators are arriving late to school and lessons are not starting on time, educators are not giving respect to one another and learner's parents not cooperative. It was mentioned that the SGB was not provided with any capacity workshop since its establishment.

4.5 Learners Representative Council

Toilets are not healthy and not in good conditions to be used by human beings, the bad smell affects learners and educators. Most educators are dedicated to their work and learners are not motivated to improve their school work. Learners are also given too much homework which is a challenge for them to cope with the workload.

4.6 Improvement plan

The school is conducting extra lessons in the afternoon after the normal working hours and Saturday classes are conducted during weekends. The school will also be having winter schools and learning camps will be held during the school holidays for grade 12 learners. Weekly and monthly test are written as part of the development plan for learners and test are moderated before are given to learners. Daily lesson plans are in placed managed by subject HOD's in the school and a period register is signed on daily basis by educators, thereafter is submitted to the deputy principal for inspection. Motivational seminars sessions are held for both learners and educators, parents are also encouraged to attend school meetings and to fully participate in school activities.

4.7 Challenges

- Post provisioning and past recruitment practices
- Commitment and competence of FET educators
- Test books, work books and learner furnisher
- Physical infrastructure

4.8 Presentation by the Department of Education

It was reported that the principal of the school is removed for a while and he is undergoing management capacity training. The Department has developed a plan that will focus on the school improvement and circuit managers are closely monitoring the daily operations in the school on behalf of the Department.

4.9 School Governing Body

The Department is in a process of elections of the SGB's in all the schools within the province and the process will be finalised by the end of March 2012.

4.10 Learners Support Material

The department acknowledged that there were challenges on delivering textbooks on time to various schools and the delay was caused by a new contractor appointed.

4.11 Teenage pregnancy

The school does not have a challenge of teenage pregnancy.

5. Recommendations

- The department must ensure that the school improvement plan is closely monitored and enough support is given to the school.

- The Department must ensure that enough LSM is delivered and distributed on time to learners, and that necessary equipment's or resources are provided to the school.
- The department must ensure that the school has enough educators and that intensive program is in place to monitor the working.
- The department must ensure that learners are transported on time to school and also back home.
- The department must ensure that the SGB is well trained and is continuously capacitated on school management programs.
- The department must ensure that LRC is capacitated on leadership programs and that regular meetings are held amongst educators and LRC.

MEC for Education

During the public hearings held on the 01 March 2012, the MEC of the Department of Education responded as follows regarding the university:


- That the province will be having a University and government is in a process of identifying the land and area that will be suitable for such.
- The University will be having satellite campuses in all the districts within the province and one main campus.

6. Conclusion

The Chairperson would like to thank Members of the Portfolio Committee on Education, Culture, Sport and Recreation, officials from the Department of Education, and the Legislature support staff who participated in the site visits and engaged with stakeholders and ensured that the objectives of the site visits are achieved.

Lastly, on behalf of the Committee, the Chairperson would like to request the house to adopt this Report.

Thank you,



Hon NC Mamabolo
Chairperson: Education;
Culture, Sport and Recreation

04/12/2012
Date