



National Council: Yoliswa Dwane (Chair), Ntuthuzo Ndzomo, Bayanda Mazwi, Sean Feinberg, Brad Brockman, Doron Isaacs, Daphne Erosi, Andiswa Kolanisi, Thando Dyamara, Tulani Ntombela, Banele Pateni, Mpumeza Mtyaphi, Zintle Makoba, Mpho Motloung, Phathu Manwadu, Lovey Mthethwa, Sibabalwe Hlulani, Professor Peliwe Lolwana, Prof Paula Ensor, Zackie Achmat

Equal Education
3rd Floor Summure Building
314 Rev RTJ Namane Drive
Tlamatlama Tembisa 1632

MEC Barbara Creecy
111 Commissioner Street
Johannesburg 2001

11 December 2013

Cc: Ekurhuleni North Distirct Director Mr. Ephraim Tau

Dear MEC Creecy,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us on 26 November to discuss the sanitation crisis in Tembisa and the way forward.

We are pleased to hear that you have developed a plan to solve this crisis by 15 January 2014. We believe that successfully addressing the crisis will require that students go to schools that meet the following conditions:

- Sufficient working toilets to meet the needs of the student body
- Sufficient taps and a consistent supply of quality water
- Regular access to toilet paper and soap for all students
- Sufficient and functioning sanitary bins
- Clean toilet blocks that students can use without loss of dignity

We hope and expect that your plan will succeed in providing the above. At the same time, we are aware that this is not the first time that the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) has attempted to improve sanitation systems in Tembisa. Despite these previous efforts, the crisis persists.

In order to make sure that we address this sanitation crisis once and for all, we need a comprehensive and sustainable solution. This means that we need a plan that:

1. Sets standards for sanitation infrastructure and materials, maintenance and monitoring. These standards will ensure that all stakeholders know their responsibilities and will provide clear direction for all parties moving forward
2. Establishes timeframes by which each school will reach these standards so that the situation is addressed in a manner that reflects its urgency
3. Provides public accountability measures to ensure that communities can hold government and all other stakeholders accountable for delivery

During our meeting we requested that you share your plan with us so that we can measure how it performs on these three dimensions (standards, timeframes and public accountability measures). In response to our request, you thanked our members for the role they have played in bringing this crisis to your attention. However, you declined to share your plan with them.

It is the fundamental right of the learners who are affected and raised this issue to the GDE, as well as the broader public, to see this plan. This will allow them to know whether their concerns are being addressed and how the GDE will ensure access to adequate sanitation in Tembisa's high schools. As such, we are requesting that by 5 January 2014 you share with us the full details of the GDE's plan for fixing the sanitation crisis in Tembisa by 15 January 2014.

✉ **Postal:** PO Box 40114, Elonwabeni, 7791 🏢 **Head Office:** Washington Sqr, Capital Drive, Thembokwezi, Khayelitsha
✉ **E-mail:** info@equaleducation.org.za ~ 🌐 **Website:** www.equaleducation.org.za
📘 **Facebook:** Equal Education fan page ~ 🐦 **Twitter:** twitter.com/equal_education
☎ **Telephone:** 021 387 0022 ~ 📠 **Fax:** 0865169396



Registered S10(1)(cN) and S18A(1)(a) Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) (Exemption Number 930 027 221)
Registered Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) (Registration Number 068-288-NPO)

We would like to further emphasize our offer to build a cooperative relationship with the GDE on this and other issues. We believe that doing so requires actively sharing information relating to challenges in the communities in which we work as well as working together to address them. In this way, we can provide an equal and quality education for all.

Yours faithfully,

Adam Bradlow
Co-Head: Equal Education, Gauteng
Adam.Bradlow@equaleducation.org.za
072-347-3027

Tshepo Motsepe
Co-Head: Equal Education, Gauteng
Tshepo@equaleducation.org.za
071-886-5637

