



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
706 Royal Place
Corner Eloff and Kerk
Johannesburg, 2001

MEC Panyaza Lesufi
111 Commissioner Street
Johannesburg 2001

29 July 2014

Re: Meeting with Infrastructure Management Team and Opening of Pre-Fabricated Toilets in Tembisa

Dear MEC Lesufi,

Thank you for helping to facilitate a meeting with your Infrastructure Management Team. We have been in touch Director of Stakeholder Engagement Mr. Thapelo Dlamini about this, and hope that the meeting date will be finalised soon. We are available to meet with the team at their earliest convenience.

We wanted to bring to your urgent attention the fact that since we met on 8 July, only one of the five schools to which new pre-fabricated toilets had been delivered at the beginning of the year has been opened to students – Tembisa West Secondary School. As of writing, the pre-fab toilets at Ingqayizivele, Tembisa High, Thuto-Ke-Maatla and Masisebenze are still not open to students.

More than six months after these toilets were delivered to alleviate the sanitation crisis at these schools, students there, including Equal Education members who campaigned for the toilets, continue to suffer the indignity of insufficient sanitation infrastructure. This is an urgent crisis, which we are asking you to resolve immediately. Please respond to us on this issue by Friday 8 August at the latest.

Furthermore, we would like to remind you of two additional commitments you made to us at our meeting on 8 July, both of which have not been honoured yet. The first was your commitment to send us an update on school sanitation in Tembisa by 14 July. The second was your commitment to send us a report regarding the progress in unblocking all toilets in Gauteng during the first 35 days of your 100 days in office. As this period began 23 May 2014, the first 35 days ended 27 June. We request that you share both of these documents with us by 15 August.

Finally, we wanted to re-extend our invitation for you to join us in Tembisa to educate students on the importance of school sanitation. Please see the initial invitation below. We are running further sanitation workshops with students in the next few weeks and would be happy to arrange a convenient time for you to join.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you soon,

Yours in quality and equal education for all,

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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)



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MEC Panyaza Lesufi
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11 July 2014

Re: Follow-Up on 8 June Meeting Regarding Tembisa School Sanitation Crisis and Invitation to Join School Sanitation Workshops

Dear MEC Lesufi,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us on 8 June and for presenting your plans for the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) for the next five years, particularly with regards to sanitation.

As promised, we would like to extend an invitation to join us in Tembisa to educate students there about the importance of caring for their sanitation facilities. We plan on conducting further sanitation workshops during the first two weeks of the third school term. Please let us know when would be convenient.

In the meantime, we wanted to follow up on a few key points:

- We looking forward to receiving the update on the pre-fabricated toilets in Tembisa you indicated you would send to us on 14 July. Pre-fabricated toilets at Inqayizivele, Jiyana, Masisebenze, Tembisa High, Tembisa West and Thuto-Ke-Maatla continue to experience challenges and many are not open to students on a regular basis. We would appreciate the GDE's assistance in addressing these concerns.
- We are eager to study the report you promised to send us regarding the GDE's progress in unblocking all toilets in Gauteng during the first 35 days of your 100 days in office, which began 23 May 2014. As 27 June represents 35 days of your tenure, we hope that you will be able to share this report with us soon.
- Given that we only received your five year plans on 8 July, we hope you will understand that that we are not able to provide comprehensive comment in time for your public presentation on 15 July in Tembisa as requested. We look forward to attending the presentation on the 15th.
- We will be writing to you shortly to request a meeting with officials in your department responsible for infrastructure planning and development, in relation to the implementation of Norms and Standards for School Infrastructure. We are reaching out to all provincial education departments in this way, in anticipation of the 29 November 2014 deadline by which provinces have to produce their implementation plans for the Norms and Standards. EE wants to work with provincial departments to ensure that the best possible plans are produced, and that they are implemented.
- We fully support your idea to bring together all NGOs working in the education sector in Gauteng to discuss challenges facing education in the province and how best we may be able to address them. Please let us know how we can participate in the conference.

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- We would like to study further the issue of the school mergers you mentioned as this will affect our members around the province. Any information you are able to share with regards to this matter would be most appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration during the course of our meeting. We are looking forward to the years ahead.

Yours in quality and equal education for all,



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