



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
706A Royal Place
85 Eloff St
Johannesburg, 2001

MEC Panyaza Lesufi
111 Commissioner Street
Johannesburg 2001

1 September 2014

Re: Sanitation March on 13 September to Hand Over Memorandum of Demands to MEC Lesufi

Dear MEC Lesufi,

We are writing to notify you that we will be marching to your offices on 13 September 2014, and to ask that you be present to collect our memorandum of demands. We request you to collect the memorandum and address Equal Education members at 1:00 pm on the day.

We are marching because we demand that the prefabricated toilets in our schools – toilets which have been sitting idle for over seven months – are opened immediately. In response to our sanitation campaign, in January of this year the GDE provided emergency relief to schools by sending two prefabricated toilet blocks each to five schools in Tembisa, for a total of 10 new toilets at Ingqayizivele, Masisebenze, Tembisa High, Tembisa West and Thuto-Ke-Maatla. Yet, many of these toilets remain closed. In our meeting with you on 8 July 2014, you promised to open all the prefabricated toilets and provide us with a report on their status by 14 July 2014. Despite repeated follow up, we are yet to receive this report. Indeed, our last correspondence has been ignored.

We are marching to remind you of your promise to fix all school toilets in Gauteng by 31 April, the end of the first 100 days of your tenure. During our meeting on 8 July 2014, you promised to provide us with a report on your progress in fulfilling this promise during the first 35 days of your tenure by 14 July 2014. Despite our subsequent follow up, we are yet to receive this update. In the meantime, our monitoring on the ground indicates that this promise remains unfulfilled as many school toilets remain broken or unopened – starting with the prefabricated toilets in Tembisa.

We are marching because we demand a plan to address the sanitation crisis in our schools. Nearly one year since we first requested that the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) release such a plan, students continue to go to schools in the shadow of a sanitation crisis. When we first wrote to the GDE on 25 October 2013, we requested a plan that:

1. Defines a standard regarding the supply of toilets, water supply and sanitation materials (e.g. sanitary bins, soap and toilet paper); maintenance; and the ongoing monitoring of the sanitation system to which both schools and the GDE can be held accountable
2. Provides a timeline for ensuring all schools reach this standard, prioritising those schools that are of greatest need and reflecting the urgency of the situation
3. Includes accountability measures to ensure an open and transparent process, such as community consultation committees and publicly available regular progress reports

While we are not the first students to suffer the indignity of poor sanitation, we intend to be the last. Only such a plan can guarantee that our brothers, sisters, children and grandchildren will not face a similar fate in their schools.

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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)

We ask that you acknowledge receipt of this letter and indicate whether you will be accepting our memorandum on 13 September 2014.

Yours in equal and quality education for all,



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