Mrs E. Mamathuba
The Director General
Private Bag X 895
Pretoria
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Dear Mrs Mamathuda

The WCPTS Forum was established in 1996 in response to the rationalisation of 21 000 teachers in South Africa (9 000 teachers in the WC). It consists of 400 primary and secondary schools. The WCPTS Forum is in the forefront of establishing a progressive educational system in SA.

As our name indicates we are involved with parents, teachers and students to promote quality education. We believe that public education in SA should be free and compulsory from grade R to grade 12. There should be free education at state tertiary institutions for students who meet the entrance requirements. Private schools should not exist because they further increase inequalities in education.

The vast majority of state schools in South Africa during the colonial and apartheid systems received inferior buildings and inferior education. Education for the masses was not considered to be important for them. Thus SA suffers from the huge physical infra-structure backlogs which model C schools do not suffer from.
We believe that the draft norms and standards document issued by the National Minister of Education consists of 8 pages of nothingness when compared to the 2008 document issue by the then National Minister of education. The present draft document will perpetuate the huge backlog in Educational physical infra-structure.

If one compares the 2008 to the 2012 document then it tells a sorry story. In 2008 one had a draft document that held great potential for the poor in SA. To us the present state leaders in Education and the present cabinet ministers are not serious about improving the lot of poor students in our country.

The state must be held accountable for delivering quality education. We suggest the following:

- Classroom size to be 8mX10m
- Water and electricity to be paid by the State.
- Maximum of 30 students in a classroom
- 1 teacher per 30 students
- Specialist classrooms depending on curriculum of the school.
- A library for every 500 students (or less that 500) stocked with relevant books
- A computer room for every 300 students
- A Science Laboratory for every 200 students
- A decent fence around the school
- The school site to be 2 hectares and a sportsfield not less than 2.8 hectares. Sportsfields to be maintained by the State.
- An administrative block with relevant offices/sickbay/kitchen/printing facilities/staffroom
- Covered walkways.
- Schools must have a meeting place where all students can be present. Therefore all schools should have a hall on its site to accommodate all the students.
- One toilet for every 30 students. One toilet for every 100 students.

All the schools we represent in the Western Cape have not been painted in the last 20 years. The Western Cape Education has no policy in place to upgrade educational facilities. The 20 schools the WCED wished to close at the end of 2012 are all in a physical state of disrepair. Whose fault is it, obviously the WCED has neglected these schools and need to correct it sooner than later.
The WCPTS Forum believes that the National Minister of Education must be specific about what a school should have concerning its physical infra-structure. We want to emphasise that Education is an immediate right, it is not a progressive right. A student who goes to a school which has an inferior infra-structure is immediately at a disadvantage to a student who goes to the school with good infra-structure.

If we want to avoid a massive uprising of students, parents and teachers in South Africa, the National Minister must become serious about education and do the right thing. There is a saying: There is no right way to do the wrong thing. This is what the Minister is doing.

We thank EE for giving us the opportunity to make the submission and salute them in their quest to provide quality education to all students in South Africa.

Brian Isaacs
Chairperson

WCPTS
20 April 2013