

September 2019

# THE EQUALISER

Equal Education  
official  
newsletter

Edition: The Charter for an Equal Education



We are living in a time when the lives of womxn continue to be disposable, and when foreign nationals are being subjected to violence and hatred. EE members  
#SayNoToXenophobia  
#StopViolenceAgainstWomxn

## 25 Years into democracy: reviving a people's vision for education

Noncedo Madudube, EE General Secretary

Comrades, you have built the Equal Education that we have today. Daily we learn and unlearn things inside and outside of the classroom that build our activism- all while we live in realities that holds little justice and equality for us as black youth.

May the spirit of Steve Biko and EE comrades before us, guide us on our road to launch the Charter for an Equal Education in the Eastern Cape. We will make history as we present an ideology that works to build consensus on what change we need and how should that change come about; as we actively build and strengthen relationships that have emerged as a result of struggle by learners, students and the working class from across the country in demanding a liberating education system in our life time.

Take this charter and live it! Share it with teachers, friends, family, church groups, sports groups and neighbours! This charter is based off our EE politics, may we continue to live a politics of kindness, love, action, a thirst for knowledge and a commitment for equality in Education and South Africa as a whole. Viva Equalisers Viva!

## Equalisers draft performance contract for Minister Motshekga, protest outside DBE

By Kamogelo Lephai, Limpopo Equaliser

I am an Equaliser from Kgolokgotla Secondary School. On 18 June 2019 I was part of the [group of] Equalisers, from five provinces, [who gathered to protest] at the Department of Basic Education in Pretoria.

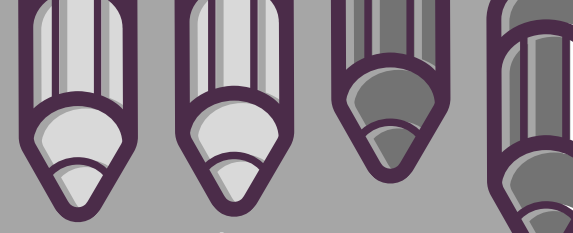
We had a picket to remind the Minister that she is the Minister for the third time and [that she hasn't fulfilled the deadlines set out by the Norms and Standards for School Infrastructure].

But now we are done with talking. We want action. [My school is overcrowded] because we don't have enough classes and that is illegal according to the [2020 deadline] of the Norms and Standards for School Infrastructure.

### Whistle-blowing

To report any wrongdoing at EE, anonymously, phone the toll-free number 0800 117 111 or SMS 33490 or visit [equaleducation.org.za/whistle-blowing](http://equaleducation.org.za/whistle-blowing)





## Keep pushing on

Message from National Council Chairperson  
Yana van Leeve

Dumela, Sawubona, Molweni, greetings Comrades, The first half of 2019 has been very busy for the struggle for equality in our education system. Most prominently was the election of the new government lead by President Cyril Ramaphosa who has kept Minister Angie Motshekga in her position as Minister of Basic Education. This will be her third time serving as Minister despite declining access to schools and quality in teaching and learning. We must be more vigilant and creative in our efforts to expose the slow and unacceptable rates of improvement in our schools. We do not want any more children dying in our schools because of unsafe infrastructure, we do not want any more learners leaving school because learning is prevented by absent teachers, long and dangerous distances to travel, violence in our communities or because materials are not enough. We have a right to learn, we have a right to succeed.

The actions held around the various State of the Province addresses and the State of the Nation Address was a powerful showing for Equal Education and for highlighting issues of the youth. Most important was our victory in removing Zukisa Faku, a convicted fraudster, as the chairperson of the parliamentary committee responsible for oversight over the Department of Basic Education. There is no space in our government for crooks.

While we continue to hold our political leaders accountable, the National Council has had a busy six months strengthening the internal governance systems in EE. Two constitutionally mandated committees have been established: the Audit Committee, which assists with financial oversight has been hard at work towards tightening EE's financial practices; and the Human Resources (HR) Subcommittee that provides guidance on staff related matters. These two committees play a significant role in strengthening EE's internal practices.

The NC has also recently welcomed four new members to fill vacant provincial representative positions and to strengthen the capacity of the NC as a whole. Following engagement with members in the provinces that had a vacant position to be filled, and deliberation by the NC, I am proud to announce that the following comrades have joined the National Council: 1. Limpopo provincial representative: Mosa George Khosa 2. KwaZulu-Natal provincial representative: Nomfundo Ngobese 3. Co-opted member: Phindile Kunene 4. Co-opted member: Thabang Pooe. We are excited to have these Comrades join the NC and look forward to continuing to build our movement. They will join the NC at its next meeting, which is scheduled for 20 to 24 September.

Lastly, I would like to thank our members, volunteers, staff and activists who do the day to day work of building our movement, working long hours, travelling to remote schools, talking to learners about their experiences and engaging with government about their duties and powers. As we enter the last few months of the year, I wish you Comrades all the best for upcoming exams.  
Amandla!



### COMPETITION

Submit a design for a t-shirt that is inspired by the Charter for an Equal Education, and it could be chosen as the official design for EE member t-shirts.

Submit by 18 October via  
WhatsApp 021 361 0127

## Protest outside DBE

Thabisile Sithole, Limpopo Equaliser

Greetings. As a Leadership Committee member of EE I was chosen to participate in the action outside of the Department of Basic Education in Pretoria. The reason I attended the action was because Mam Angelina Motshekga was reinstated as the Minister of Basic Education.

She promised to provide us as learners [with] all the facilities that we need in schools, such as laboratories, libraries and adequate classrooms. The [Minimum Norms and Standards for School Infrastructure] set deadlines for the government to provide schools with facilities that should be in schools. Many schools lack those facilities.

The first deadline was in November 2016, meaning all schools were supposed to be equipped with water, decent sanitation, electricity, and mud, asbestos, wood and metal classes should be eradicated. The first deadline has passed, while a number of schools remain ill-equipped.

The main reason for us attending the DBE action was that we wanted to show Mam Angie how grief-stricken we are, because the first Norms and Standards deadline passed without our demands being met.

Equaliser newsletter editorial team:

Bayanda Ndimiso (IETU Materials Developer), Leanne Jansen-Thomas (Head of Comms), Jay-Dee Cyster (Comms Officer), Itumeleng Motlhabane (EC Junior Organiser), Lungelo Jonas (WC Junior Organiser), Zanele Modise (KZN Junior Organiser), Tevin Mahlangu (GP Community Leader) and Tebogo Tsesane (Limpopo Junior Organiser).

To submit photos, articles, or poetry or feedback on our content and design, email

[equalisernewsletter@equaleducation.org.za](mailto:equalisernewsletter@equaleducation.org.za)



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