



GAUTENG PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

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Att: News Editors

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GDE makes significant progress in ensuring that schools have functional toilets in the Province

The Gauteng MEC for Education, Mr Panyaza Lesufi has identified school infrastructure as one of the key priorities for the department.

The MEC strongly believes in the principle that “sanitation is dignity” and believes no learner should be taught in conditions that deprives them of this dignity.

In his Budget Speech the MEC announced that the department had identified 580 schools across the province which had challenges with sanitation.

The degree of disrepair in these schools varied. Contractors were appointed to do work in all of these schools and a budget of R115 million was set aside for this purpose.

Repairs have been completed in 400 of the 580 schools identified for repairs. The MEC has seriously reprimanded the Managers who dropped the ball on this crucial mandate and a new team with centre project managers was appointed to remedy the delay. The MEC remains firm that sanitation deadlines remain non negotiable

The department is expecting repairs in the remaining 150 schools to be completed by the end of this month.

Because of the special interest the MEC takes in Tembisa, a decision was taken to do an overhaul in 50 schools in the area with an estimated budget of R15 million. To date construction in 20 of these schools has been completed and we are expecting construction to be completed in the remaining schools by the end of this week.

The dedicated efforts put by the MEC in ensuring that learners learn in schools with functional toilets is a clear indication of the commitment of this government in restoring the dignity of learners.

As a permanent solution, the department has developed guidelines to schools (all the users) to assist them in managing and maintaining toilets more effectively. The department is also assisting schools to use their maintenance allocations (as part of their funding allocations) more efficiently and effectively to deal with preventative and day-to-day maintenance.

A full report on the MEC's 100 days in office will be made public on Thursday, 11th September 2014.

For more information contact the Gauteng Department of Education's spokesperson, Phumla Sekhonyane on 071 860 4496 or 011 355 1530.

Issued by the Gauteng Department of Education

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