



GAUTENG PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All Media

Att: News Editors

For immediate release

6 October 2015

Update on Roodepoort Primary School Mediation Committee Recommendations

The Department has noted the concerns raised by the DCF at their press briefing earlier today. We would like to point out at the outset that when the Department reached an agreement with the community to reopen the school, the following would be addressed:

- **Safety and security**

To this effect the Department has deployed 24 hr armed guards at the school. Access to the school is strictly regulated. The community participates in the safety & security committee established to look into matters of safety.

- **Governance and Administration**

A retired principal of Gouda Primary School, Ms Olga Da Silva has been appointed to mentor the School Management Team in general management protocols and sound governance procedures and processes. Ms Da Silva has met with the SMT to outline how the programme will unfold.

- **Race and Diversity**

Workshops were held on 18 - 19 September 2015 with educators post the reopening of the school, unfortunately not all educators attended these workshops.

- **Catch up plan**

An audit of curriculum backlogs was conducted and a plan developed. The catch up plan was implemented from 14 September 2015 and it entailed the following:

An additional hour in the morning to teach as follows:

- a. Monday & Tuesday - Maths
- b. Wednesday & Thursday - English
- c. Fridays were used for assessment.

On the matter regarding lessons during the current school holidays, the Department engaged both the educators and their unions. The view by educators was that the extra hour allocated for catch up would be sufficient.

Parents have also raised the issue of educators who have not been paid. These are educators hired by the SGB and not the GDE. The District is working with the school to resolve this.

The department has retained one member of the Mediation Committee to remain at the school to ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee.

The department remains committed to resolving the challenges at the school and addressing concerns raised by any structure or members of the community.

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

Issued by the Gauteng Department of Education

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