



GAUTENG PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All Media

Att: News Editors

For immediate release

22 September 2016

Media Statement on provision of basic services at the Goza Primary School in Freedom Park, Soweto

The Department has received several media queries regarding the lack of water and electricity at the school. The Department can confirm that in the last week there was intermittent water and electricity supply.

For the record the school is not yet connected to the municipal electricity grid and water supply due to historical reasons. It must be noted that the school is a mobile structure due to lack of educational site/land in Freedom Park. Hence, Goza Primary was accommodated on the same site as Somelilwazi Primary School pending subdivision of the two pieces of land by the Department of Human Settlements.

The department installed 50kVa 3 phase generator in 2016 to supply electricity to the school. In addition 3 water tanks with a combined capacity of 25 000 litres have been installed at the schools. The tanks are being replenished on a daily basis.

We have established that water gets depleted before the end of school day and we are investigating the cause. We suspect there is a leak in the pipes and a plumber will be on site to investigate and fix the problem.

The department has also established that the generator is faulty and experiencing mechanical breakdown. An electrician has been deployed to determine the cause and fix the generator. In the event it cannot be fixed the Department will replace the generator.

The department apologise for the irregular supply of water and electricity at the school. We view this in a serious light as it affect teaching and learning but appeal for patience as we are addressing the problem.

In the long run, the solution is for the two piece of land to be subdivided. To that end, we are engaging the Department of Human Settlements to subdivide the stands currently occupied by Goza Primary and Somelilwazi Primary School. This will facilitate connection of the school to the municipal bulk infrastructure.

For more information, contact the Gauteng Department of Education's Acting Spokesperson, Oupa Bodibe on 072 645 4569.

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