



Schools' Infrastructure Buyambo

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**Let's Grow
South Africa.
Together.**

Covid-19 Safety Tips



Wash & sanitise
your hands

Hlamba ucoco
izandla zakho



Keep your distance
from others

Gcina umgama phakathi
kwakho nabanye



Wear your mask

Nxiba i-mask
yakho

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SAY NO to destruction
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Sakh'isidima News now available on the EFMS

If you've missed previous editions of Sakh'isidima News and you have access to the EFMS, we've got you covered. The newsletter can now be accessed on the EFMS in 5 easy steps:

1. Go to www.efms.doe.gov.za/
2. Log into the Eastern Cape EFMS page
3. At the top of the page choose the tab DoE guidelines
4. Click on Infrastructure Programme Newsletter
5. **Download the edition you wish to read**



Tough times never last, but tough people do!

MEC's Message

July was a turbulent month as we witnessed an increased number of COVID-19 infections brought about by the Delta variant. The mass vaccination of educators in the Eastern Cape took place to ensure that we are ready to resume the third term when schools opened for educators on the 22nd of July and for learners on the 26th. In total 50 700 educators and 13 122 non-teaching staff received their vaccines. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all education sector staff who opted to get the jab and urge those who have not done so yet, to do so.

As is customary in our province members of the EC Provincial Legislature conducted follow-up visits to districts and schools from 26 July to 6 August 2021. They were accompanied by Senior Managers from the Department to provide feedback on progress relating to the implementation of the House Resolutions of the February 2021 visits and to provide support to the districts and schools. Availability of suitable infrastructure is almost always on the agenda at these meetings and some of the infrastructure assessed was availability of adequate classroom accommodation, water, and sanitation. Provision of adequate classrooms is proving to be a challenge due to population dynamics in our province. Our data shows that within one district one can have both a situation of overcrowding as well as underutilisation of classrooms. This requires creative thinking on the part of our infrastructure team to adequately meet the needs of our schools.

Our country was also thrown into the depths of darkness with the recent spate of social upheaval and mass looting which occurred in KwaZulu Natal and Gauteng earlier this month. Close to 137 education institutions were damaged and looted in KZN alone, 126 of these were schools. The damage to property includes burning of classrooms and administration buildings, breaking doors and windows, damaging school furniture, damaging fencing, and cutting electrical cables. In Gauteng, 14 schools were affected, and the damage is estimated at over R40 million. By the grace of the Almighty, sanity prevailed in the Eastern



Cape with strong calls by the leadership of the province and the public at large against such senseless acts. We thank the people of the Eastern Cape for standing together to protect property, our local economy, and the jobs and the livelihoods of our people!

Our infrastructure programme continues despite a few setbacks relating to delayed projects and insufficient budget, but we will not be defeated. In this edition of **Sakh'isidima News** we showcase several projects that have been completed and some that are nearing completion, such as the mega Sophatlasana Secondary in Buffalo City. We also bring you news about the new Bizana District offices which will provide 1500 square meters of office space for the smooth running of our administrative function in this district.

At the end of July, we bid farewell to an icon in the education sector, Dr A S Nuku who has served the Department for the past 39 years. In his last position, Dr Nuku was the DDG responsible for the Branch, District Coordination and Institutional Operations, under which the Physical Resources Management Chief Directorate falls. We wish Dr Nuku everything of the very best in his retirement.



Dr A S Nuku

In conclusion I would like to remind you that tough times never last, but tough people do. We are going through trying times as a country and as a province, but we must hold our heads high and continue to fight the good fight. We must remain strong and steadfast in our mission to provide the best possible start - a solid education foundation - to the learners in our province, so that they can prosper and achieve their life goals and ideals.

Mr F D Gade
MEC for Education



Steady progress towards completion of Sophatisana Secondary



The Buffalo City metro has experienced a steady population growth of just over 1% per annum over the past few years, with the 2021 population standing at 717,000 -a 1.13% increase from 2020. The United Nations population projections indicate that this growth rate will continue through to 2035*.

Buffalo City is one of the districts in the Eastern Cape which has seen an interesting shift in population dynamics with more people moving here in search of better opportunities. The district is also showing fascinating trends in classroom utilisation. Departmental information indicates that 26% of schools in the district are highly overcrowded whilst 37% are highly underutilised.

In line with the development trends of the district, Sophatisana Secondary School, situated in

Reeston, a suburb in East London, is getting a facelift and much-needed new infrastructure.

The new project includes general upgrade to existing infrastructure, and the construction of additional buildings. The existing school, built from prefabricated structures with fibreboard walls, has been demolished. The site was handed over in August 2019 and despite lockdown regulations which delayed construction works in 2020, the project is progressing well and should be completed in the second quarter of 2022.

The school, classified as a Quintile 3 school, has over 1 000 learners who will benefit from close to 4000m2 of new and improved teaching spaces.

The project is valued at over R70 million and is being implemented by Coega Development Corporation.





807m²

Administration & Support spaces

Administration block
Dining & Nutrition Centre
Refuse Room
Guard Room



20

New Toilets (Flush)

3 823m²

Teaching spaces

2x Double storey classroom blocks
1x Single storey classroom block
Library & Computer lab
Science Laboratory



Sophatisana
Secondary





Source: Buffalo City, South Africa Metro Area Population 1950-2021 | MacroTrends



1500 Square Meters of new office space for Alfred Nzo East district

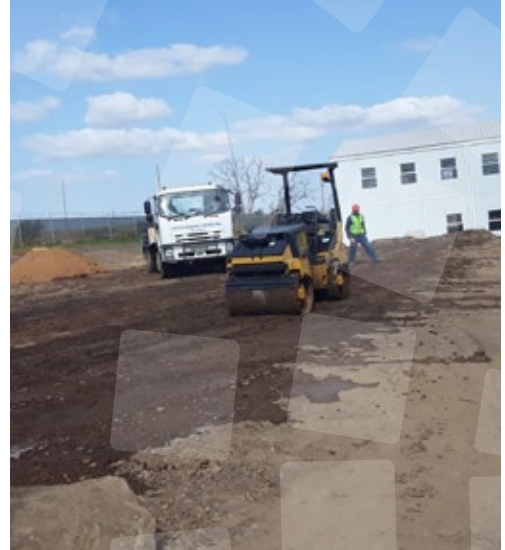
Providing suitable office infrastructure is important to ensure that the administration of education can continue in a smooth and efficient manner. Excitement is mounting as construction of the new district office nears completion.

The site for these offices was handed over in February 2018, however the project was delayed by almost 12 months due to issues around the size of the land allocated for construction of the new buildings. Work is progressing at a steady pace towards finalising construction of the prefabricated offices, ablutions, and related support facilities.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa who is contracted to implement this project is steadily making progress and it is anticipated that works will be concluded by the end of August, if there are no unexpected delays.

The project cost is just over R28 million and will provide 1500m² of office space in a double storey building where close to 185 ECD^oE staff members will be accommodated.







BACK TO SCHOOL

JULY 2021

Back to School Visits

Thousands of learners and educators in the Eastern Cape braved the exceptionally cold winter conditions on Monday, 26 July as the third school term kicked off after several weeks rest.

As is customary, members of the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature accompanied by DoE officials visited selected schools in the 12 education districts to assess their readiness to tackle the new term using 14 indicators (to assess readiness). These are:

- Facilities
- Adequate water
- Sanitation
- Basic sanitation and hygiene packages
- Special schools
- Number of infrared thermometers
- Learner transport
- School Nutrition Programme
- Number of screeners
- Educators and non-educators
- Provision of COVID-19 essentials
- Psychosocial Support to Learners and Staff
- Quality of Learning and Teaching Campaign (QLTC)
- Communication

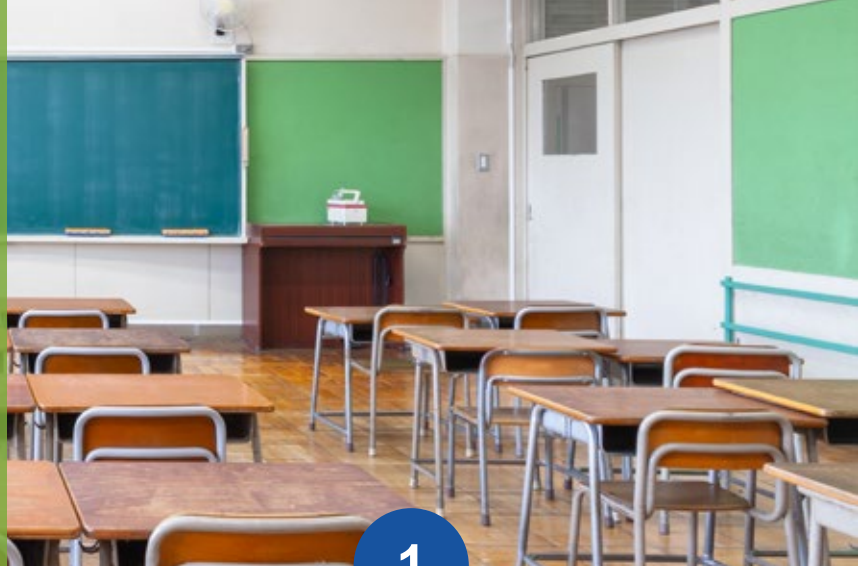


The paradox of underutilised & overcrowded classrooms

Population dynamics and the historical neglect of schools in the former homeland areas is leading to an interesting phenomenon of both overcrowded and under-utilised schools across the province. This manifests in distinct trends from district to district and from one cluster to the next.

The latest User Asset Management Plan indicates that the educational facilities currently available (regardless of their condition) are inadequate for effective teaching and learning and calculates the shortfall (backlog) for each school based on the Regulations relating to Minimum Uniform Norms and Standards for Public School Infrastructure. The Classroom backlog currently stands at 4 984 (1140 ordinary classrooms and 3 844 Grade R Classrooms) and will require close to R13 billion to address.

The current capacity and utilisation of facilities provides different pictures of both overcrowding and at the same time underutilisation of teaching spaces across the twelve education districts. There are no formal definitions for “over-crowding” or “under-utilisation”, rather the following informal criteria are used by the Department to determine the extent of classroom utilisation:



1

Optimal Learner Classroom ratio

Primary
40.0

Combined
37.5

Secondary
35.0

2

Overcrowding

4 or more additional classrooms



School classified as Highly Overcrowded

2 to 3 additional classrooms



School classified as Overcrowded

3

Underutilisation

4 or more classrooms not in use



School classified as Highly Underutilised

2 to 3 classrooms not in use



School classified as Underutilised

4

Normal

A school is classified as Normal if it requires 0 to 1 additional classroom

Current indications are that schools in OR Tambo Coastal (30%), Alfred Nzo East (28%), Buffalo City (26%) are highly overcrowded.

Our data shows that there are schools in districts such as Alfred Nzo West, Amathole East, Chris Hani East and Nelson Mandela which are underutilised by more than 50%. There is also a prevalence of overcrowding and utilisation in the same district! The simultaneous over-crowding and under-utilisation is a challenge that needs to be met at a District / Circuit management level through the provision of non-infrastructure solutions.

As part of the DoE's ongoing programme to provide additional classrooms, construction work to the value of almost R40 million was completed recently at three schools as profiled below.



Attwell Madala Senior Secondary

Umtata / King Sabata Dalindyebo
Local Municipality / OR Tambo Inland
R 16 million
22 Prefabricated Classrooms



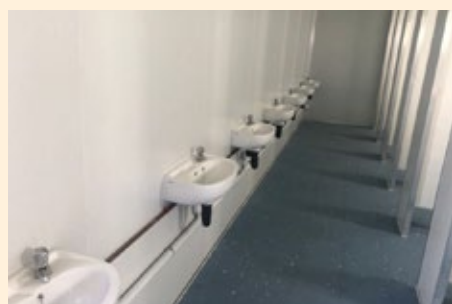
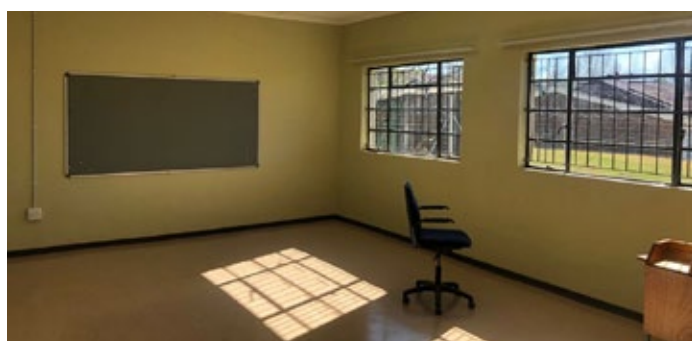


Maclear Methodist Primary

Maclear / Elundini Local Municipality / Joe Gqabi

R 12.9 million

9 Prefabricated classrooms ablutions and repairs to existing classrooms



Nyibiba Primary

Dimbaza / Buffalo City Local Municipality / Buffalo City

R 10.86 million

10 Prefabricated classrooms, ablutions, and walkways.





Spotlight on...well maintained schools

Manqulo Primary

Maqwathini | Mnquma Local Municipality Amathole East. Completed 2012



-32.46127500 South, 28.00537100 East



Save our schools

SAY NO to destruction of public property

**Report criminal behaviour to SAPS
at 08600 10111**

Contribute towards building a safer society. Download the MySAPS Mobile App a new and easy way for citizens to access police services and information.

MySAPS USSD Code *143*10111#

