



Schools' Infrastructure Buyambo

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

Covid-19 Safety Tips



Wash & sanitise
your hands

Hlamba ucoce
izandla zakho



Keep your distance
from others

Gcina umgama phakathi
kwakho nabanye



Wear your mask

Nxiba i-mask
yakho

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September 2022

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Message from the MEC

Stimulating the local economy through **job creation**

This month we continued our programme of handing over completed schools to communities in our province. The Ramohlakoana community were enthralled with the new Maluti Secondary School completed at a cost of almost R60 million. The second handover was that of Edward Zibi Secondary School completed under the Accelerated School Infrastructure Development Initiative (ASIDI) at a cost of R51.9 million.

It should be remembered that the Eastern Cape Department of Education implements most of its school infrastructure development projects with the assistance of various Implementing Agents (IAs) who are responsible for managing projects from inception to completion in line with Service Delivery Agreements. The projects handed over in the Matatiele Local Municipality were completed by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure and the Independent Development Trust, respectively, creating jobs for the local community.

The Basic Education Employment Initiative (BEEI), which is our sector's implementation of the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative (PYEI) is continuing to bear fruit. In the Eastern Cape alone, close to 130 000 youth have been employed, either as Education Assistants or General School Assistants since the start of the programme. I am heartened to highlight that 63 percent of these positions are occupied by women. Phase 4 of this initiative, which kicks off in August will see a further 40 200 youth being employed by February 2023. A vital role played by General School Assistants is that of handymen (or women), assisting with the particularly important part of day-to-day maintenance of school facilities. Schools are responsible for the regular maintenance of facilities to ensure that the buildings do not fall into disrepair. This is funded through a percentage of the norms and standards allocation received exactly for this purpose.

Early Childhood Development provides a solid start for children before they enter mainstream schooling. You may be aware that the function for Early Childhood Development was officially transferred from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Basic Education on 1 April 2022. The task of ensuring that ECD Centres are on par has started and eighteen ECD Centres will be renovated as part of the infrastructure development programme this year with funding from the ECD Grant.

The school infrastructure development programme in the Eastern Cape has and continues to contribute significantly to job creation. We will continue to prioritise the creation of jobs in all infrastructure initiatives to boost the local economy, reduce inequality and eliminate poverty.

Mr Fundile Gade, MPL

MEC for Education

MEC hands over R60m Maluti Secondary to Ramohlakoana community

The Ramohlakoana community in Matatiele was abuzz on Tuesday, 25 July 2022, when the brand new Maluti Secondary School was handed over by the MEC for Education, Mr Fundile Gade, MPL.

Founded in 1984, the school was entirely built with the contributions of the community. In 1985, this school had an enrolment of 100 - today this number stands at 862 and the school continues to attract learners from the areas of Malubalube, Khoapa, Nchodu, Magema, Tsepisong, Masakala, Mafube, Belford, Hardenberg, Sibi, and St Paul. Lately the school has attracted learners from Cedarville, Mt. Frere, and Mount Fletcher.

The new school boasts state-of-the-art facilities and was finalised under oversight of the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure (DPWI), as implementing agent, at a total cost of R60 million. The MEC for the DPWI, Mr Babalo Madikizela handed over the project to the MEC for education on this day.

The project site was handed over in January 2017 and the project was completed in 64 months.

The successful completion of this infrastructure project once again bears testimony to our commitment as the Department of Education, to provide decent, quality education facilities, which serve as a stepping stone to a brighter future for the children of our province!

About Maluti SS

- The school has twenty-nine staff members
- Out of the 862 learners, 55,22% are girls.
- Almost 61% of learners are in Grades 10 and 11.
- The highest Grade 12 pass rate achieved was 86% in 2019.
- In 2013 the school achieved 90% in Maths & Science and was celebrated as a 'Dinaledi School' receiving science equipment as part of their reward.
- The school serves as a centre for the Second Chance Matric programme in the district and manages this task with distinction.



Alfred Nzo West,
Matatiele Local Municipality,
Protea

Maluti Secondary School

During construction



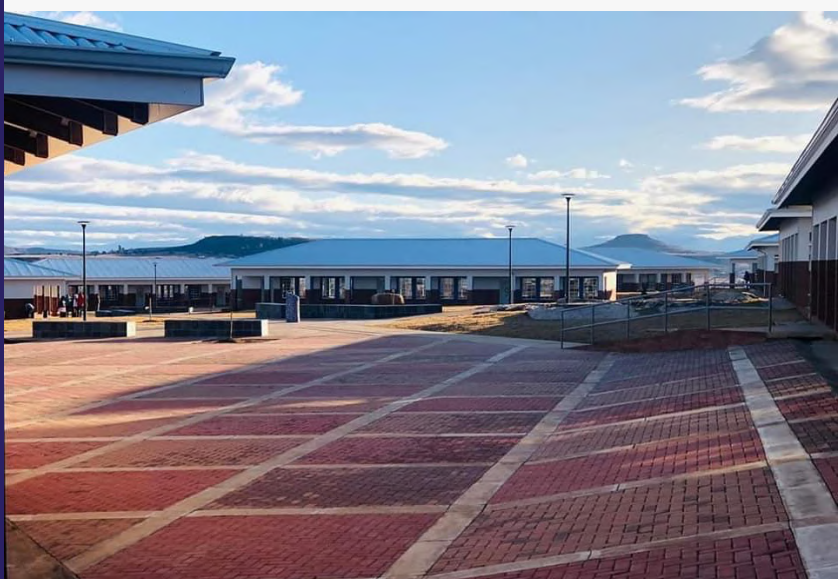
Maluti Secondary School Complete

Quick facts

- **32** New Classrooms - 3 078 m2.
- **13** Administration and support spaces - 368 m2 – Includes:
Offices,
Staff room and
Kitchenette as well as
Storage spaces.
- **335 m2** Dining room, kitchen, and food storage areas
- **850m** Security fencing around the school perimeter.
- **3** Specialist classrooms - 625 m2 – Includes a:
Science Laboratory,
Multipurpose room and
Media & Computer room.
- **78 m2** Learner toilets (girls, boys, and disabled learners)
- **4** Staff toilets (male, female, and disabled adults)
- **5** Existing classrooms and 8 existing pit latrines were demolished.



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
PUBLIC WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE



A school worthy of high achievers... Edward Zibi Secondary



The slogan of Edward Zibi Secondary school is '*Aim high, achieve more.*' This is exactly what was achieved with this beautiful school completed by the Department of Basic Education under the Accelerated School Development Initiative (ASIDI).

The Independent Development Trust (IDT) was entrusted with oversight of the construction work and the project was completed successfully at a total cost of R51.9 million.

The following was delivered as part of the project:

- Close to 530 square meters (m2) of inappropriate structures (classrooms, kitchen, and ablutions) were demolished.
- The new facilities consist of over 2 220 m2 teaching, administration, and support areas. More specifically, these include:
 - Eight ordinary classrooms and specialist rooms (library, computer laboratory, science laboratory and multipurpose classroom), fully furnished.
 - A dining and nutrition centre including kitchen scullery and food storage areas.
 - An admin block comprising offices and storerooms.
 - Separate ablutions for educators and learners (13 in total).
- In addition, a 5 000 m2 sports field was built for physical education, sporting, and recreational activities.
- Rainwater tanks (35) and a 40-000 litre water tower was constructed.
- The facility is protected by a 1 270-meter security fence.

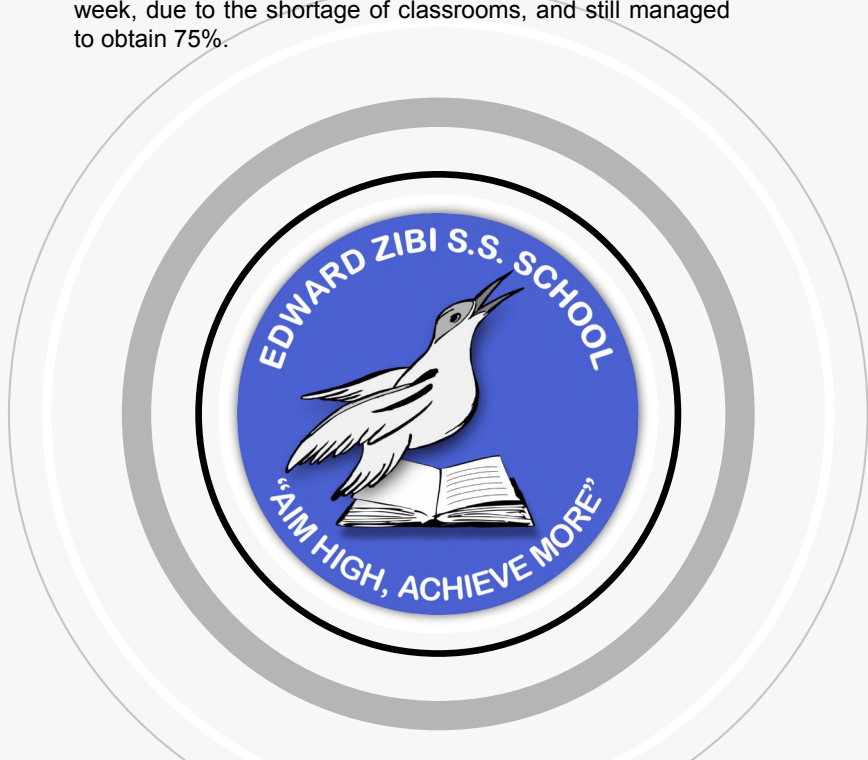
The site was handed over in May 2018 and the project was completed in 37 Months.

The school was handed over to the community and other education sector stakeholders by the MEC for Education, Mr Fundile Gade, MPL on Thursday, 28 July amid much fanfare and excitement.

About Edward Zibi Secondary school

The school was established in 1995 and a nearby mission was used to accommodate learners. In the same year, the community built three mud structures. This was followed by an additional three mud structures the following year.

The school was housed in these mud structures until 9 July 2021. The school has sixteen educators and six non-teaching staff; and a learner enrolment of 641 in 2022. The school achieved an 86,4% Matric pass rate in 2019. In 2020 (during Covid-19), Grade 12 learners attended classes for 2 days per week, due to the shortage of classrooms, and still managed to obtain 75%.



Alfred Nzo East,
Matatiele Local Municipality,
Maluti NU

Edward Zibi Secondary School During construction



Edward Zibi Secondary School Complete



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





General School Assistants contribute to maintenance of education facilities

Contributors: Cheera-Dee Robinson and Glynis Prince

The Presidential Youth Employment Intervention (PYEI) is an initiative driven by The Presidency to address the growing crisis of youth unemployment. This initiative has seen government institutions and the private sector working together to provide opportunities to unemployed young people left hopeless by the scarcity of job opportunities, exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Core to the PYEI is the establishment of a National Pathway Management Network (NPMN) that guides young people towards opportunities focusing on growth areas that provide earning potential, for example, installation repairs and maintenance; social services; and the automotive sector, to name a few.

The PYEI is implemented as the Basic Education Employment Initiative (BEEI) in the education sector. According to the Department of Basic Education (DBE), the PYEI has created more than 830 000 employment opportunities in this sector, making a meaningful contribution to unemployed youth nationally. Approximately 63% of these opportunities are occupied by women, making a substantial impact towards the challenges of gender inequality, unemployment, and poverty.

The Eastern Cape Department of Education developed a strategy aligned to the objectives of the PYEI, providing job opportunities to unemployed youth centred around and coordinated within local communities. Job opportunities are created for the youth as Education Assistants (to assist with teaching and learning in classrooms), and as General School Assistants (GSA's) (to help with Infrastructure Maintenance, offer Psychosocial Support / Counselling, and provide support in Sport and Enrichment programmes).

Schools have a dire need for staff to assist with day-to-day maintenance and the role that GSA's play definitely contributes to ensuring that facilities are kept in tip-top shape for optimal teaching and learning. GSAs employed to take care of Infrastructure Maintenance (Handyman) do not need any prior experience, nor a matric qualification. They must, however, have a passion for tasks related to infrastructure maintenance.

According to Acting Director for Human Resource Development, Ms Lukhanyo Sidiya, the Eastern Cape has successfully, appointed 136 323 youth during Phase 1-3 of this initiative. The process for the Phase 4 intake (advertisements and application process) will open in August 2022 and final placement of successful candidates is targeted for 1 February 2023. The entire recruitment process will be managed by an independent partner.

BEEI intake phases:





The Department, through its school infrastructure unit has embarked on an initiative to showcase the skills of General School Assistants through a school beautification programme. Districts have been requested to nominate ten schools each to participate in this programme. Look out for progress on this initiative in future editions of **Sakh'isidima News**.

On a recent visit to Parkside Primary School in East London, we met up with Ms Zizo Ngesi a General School Assistant whose duties are to take stock of all broken windows, doors, chairs, and the minor repairs. She is also responsible for the daily cleaning of the school premises and assists with the protocols in terms of Covid-19 sanitising requirements.

When asked whether she feels if she is making a difference in her role as GSA, she had this to say, "Due to the shortage of support/cleaning staff at the school I think we have made a valuable contribution by assisting the cleaners." Ngesi also expressed her excitement and gratefulness for this opportunity as she is gaining relevant experience.



Did you know...?

Young South Africans are among those most affected by the high unemployment level in the country. At the end of the first quarter in 2022, 46.3% of young people between 15 and 34 years were not in employment, education, and training.

Sources: www.stateofthenation.gov.za/assets/downloads/pyei/Fact_Sheet_1_National_Pathway_Management_Network.pdf

Portfolio Committee on Education ensures accountability on promises made

A key activity that marks the start of the academic year is the school readiness visits led by the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature, supported by the Eastern Cape Department of Education.

This programme includes meetings with education sector stakeholders (for example, Unions, School Governing Bodies, and communities), as well as visits to several schools across the province to assess, amongst other things, the availability of sufficient infrastructure and school furniture.

In July 2022, immediately after the school holidays, the Portfolio Committee on Education once again called on schools that were visited during the January programme to assess the implementation of findings and recommendations made then. Regarding infrastructure this related specifically to the provision of water and sanitation, classroom accommodation, hostels, fencing, provision of furniture, and dealing with schools damaged by disasters.

Members from the Physical Resources Management team attended these visits to report on current and future infrastructure plans and progress.

Did you Know...?

- In terms of the South African Constitution, the Provincial Government is accountable to the Legislature.
- The accountability function of the legislature is conducted through the work of Portfolio Committees. These committees play a pivotal role in facilitating public participation in the work of government travelling everywhere across the breadth of our country to give a voice to citizens.
- Several committees are constituted comprising Members of the Provincial Legislature (MPLs) (excluding Members of the Executive Council (MEC)) and all political parties are represented in each committee.
- Committees provide oversight in terms of the functioning of Government Departments and should hold MECs and departmental officials to account in terms of delivery and spending of budgets.



Asbestos Management in Eastern Cape Schools

Story By: Cheera-Dee Robinson

The Eastern Cape Department of Education's Infrastructure Unit has been working tirelessly at plans to eradicate asbestos roofs, at schools in the Eastern Cape.

Asbestos is the name for a group of natural occurring mineral fibres which are strong and both heat and chemically resistant. Asbestos is dangerous because it can break down into microscopically thin fibres. These small fibres are the most dangerous, as they are invisible to the naked eye and significant health risks arise from the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibres as they penetrate the deepest part of the lungs and respiratory system.

According to a survey conducted by the Department of Basic Education in 2013/2014, the Education Facilities Management System (EFMS) recorded 1141 schools with asbestos roofs. Due to the School Rationalisation programme, this number has been reduced to just under 1000 schools.

Posing a threat, the exposure to "raw" asbestos is becoming evident in damaged asbestos sheets, ageing of the product, replacement of sheets, and disposal thereof by schools. One of the biggest threats posed is water harvesting from deteriorating asbestos roofs and gutters for human consumption. The possibility of accumulating asbestos concentration levels within drinking water is a risk which is mitigated through the painting of asbestos roofs. Ceilings also limit the risk of exposure to the users of education facilities.

The removal and/or remediation of asbestos elements in a building is covered by the following legislation:

- National Health Act 61 of 2003.
- Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act No 85 of 1993)
- Asbestos Regulations, 2001.
- National Environmental Management Act No. 107 of 1998

The statement of intent as per the Education Infrastructure Grant (EIG) 2022/2023, indicates that Provincial Education Departments should allocate no less than 60 percent of the EIG allocation to address preventative and corrective maintenance at schools. Furthermore, the rehabilitation of schools built of asbestos and other inappropriate materials should be prioritised.

The removal and replacement of asbestos sheeting is a specialised and costly operation, and it is estimated that R1.6bn will be needed for this programme.

The ECDoE, through its Policy Formulation Engagement Programme with Nelson Mandela University (NMU) has prioritised the development of an Asbestos Management Plan for the province.

The outcome will be incorporated as a cogent Departmental Guideline to ensure that the objectives of the EIG is implemented, in accordance with available funding.

Asbestos or asbestos containing materials (ACMs) can be found in the following at education facilities:

- Asbestos Cement (prefabricated wall sections, corrugated roof sheets, gutters, pipes, garden pots, tiles).
- Asbestos Insulating Board (ceiling boards, panel boards).
- Thermal Insulation (ceiling insulation, ovens, toasters, around boilers, steam pipes, air conditioning ducts).
- Floor covering (PVC floor tiles, Thermoplastic vinyl-asbestos tiles).
- Heaters.

Source: The General Upkeep and Maintenance Guidelines (GU&M) issued by the Department of Basic Education

Providing a safe and secure learning environment

The mandate of the Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE) is to provide quality education to all learners in conducive and purpose-built education facilities. In doing so, the Department needs to ensure the safety and security of both learners and educators. This poses a huge challenge to the education sector as schools are plagued by crime impacting the learning environment and affecting the safekeeping of assets.

The Regulations for Safety Measures at Public Schools (Regulation No. 1128 of 10 Nov 2006) was introduced by the Department of Basic Education (DBE) as one of the ways to address this problem. In addition, School Infrastructure Safety and Security Guidelines were published in May 2017 and Regulations relating to Minimum Uniform Norms and Standards for Public School Infrastructure (MUNS-PSI) was passed in November 2013.

Norms and Standards for fencing of Eastern Cape schools as prescribed in the MUNS-PSI and the School Infrastructure Safety and Security Guidelines have been developed to address security of the built infrastructure; and safety of learners through fencing off areas identified safety hazards.

Norms & Standards for Fencing: General Principles

1. The focus must be on the safety and security of learners, educators, administration staff, and general workers in schools.
2. It is more cost effective to prevent illegal access than it is to repair the aftermath of vandalism.
3. Different levels and degree of crime are experienced in different parts of the province, and if not effectively controlled mutate over time into more serious crimes.
4. Risk Management processes are useful in assessing the probability of certain events and the severity of the impact, however the fact that risk profiles may change over time must be considered.
5. While some schools are located in affluent areas where security initiatives for e.g. neighbourhood watch, and surveillance cameras are in place, these should not be regarded as interventions to be relied upon.

Eastern Cape School Fencing Programme 2022-23 / 2023-24

The Numbers

191

Schools included in the programme.

R212 million

The budget currently available for material supplies, delivery and installation.

112 221

Learners will be able to learn in a safe and secure environment.

The fencing materials have been procured and is being delivered and stored in centralised warehouses in Gqeberha and East London.

71 Projects will be managed by Coega Development Corporation and a database is being populated of suitably qualified Professional Service Providers (PSPs) for 120 projects.

Fencing will be delivered to schools for installation when PSPs and Contractors are appointed.

Payments will be made upon sign off of completed work and submission of invoices and supporting documents.



Target date
31 August 2022



- To stimulate the Eastern Cape local economy, SMMEs will be targeted at both the PSP and Main Contractor level (directly or indirectly through sub contracting of work).
- All fencing materials complies with the Norms & Standards for School fencing and South African National Standards (SANS).
- All schools will receive High Risk Security fencing (Class A) around the perimeter.
- Strictly only contractors registered with CIDB in the specialist fencing grade and form part of the CDC framework contract CDC/559/18 will be appointed.

The Department will pay all compliant invoices within 30 days



NewsBytes

ECD Infrastructure Maintenance

The transfer of the Early Childhood Development (ECD) function from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Education came into effect on 1 April 2022.

Funding for infrastructure is done through an allocation from the ECD Grant which amounts to R9,975,000 in this Financial Year. This allocation will be applied towards 18 Maintenance Projects at ECD Centres across the province.

The identified projects have been assessed and costed and the procurement process is underway. It will take 1-3 months for the completion of each project as follows:

- **1 ECD Centre each in Nelson Mandela and Amathole West (Total 2).**
- **2 ECD Centres each in Amathole East, Buffalo City, Chris Hani East, and West, OR Tambo Coastal and Joe Gqabi (Total 12).**
- **3 ECD Centres each in Alfred Nzo West and Sarah Baartman (Total 6).**

Update on the review of Infrastructure Norms & Standards

Regulations relating to Minimum Uniform Norms and Standards for Public School Infrastructure (MUNS-PSI) was passed in November 2013 (in accordance with the South African Schools Act (84/1996)). The MUNS-PSI:

- Provide uniform norms and standards for public school infrastructure.
- Ensure that the design and construction of new schools and additions, alterations, and improvements to existing schools, comply with uniform norms and standards.
- Provide timeframes for the eradication of school infrastructure backlogs.

The Minister of Basic Education published a Government Gazette on 10 June with the draft amendments for public comment. The deadline for public comment expired on 31 July 2022 after an extension to afford the public more time to submit inputs.

The proposed amendments relate to the timeframes required for the provision of certain infrastructure at schools where these are lacking or insufficient.

In a media release on 3 August 2022, the DBE confirmed 'that inputs have been received from a variety of organisations and individuals including non-government organizations, unions and private companies and a provincial government'. The DBE will start the process of consolidating the amendments and incorporating the comments received. It is envisaged that this process will conclude on 9 September 2022 after which it will report to the sector.



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Staatsko

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August

What's Happening

- **9 Aug:** Women's Day (South Africa) - Public Holiday
- **9 Aug:** International Day of the World's Indigenous People
- **12 Aug:** International Youth Day
- **31 Aug:** African Traditional Medicine Day



Womans Month

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