

Sakh'isidima *news*



March 2023

Featured:
Ntsizwa Senior Secondary School



Mr Fundile Gade
MEC for Education

Sakh'isidima News is our monthly school infrastructure newsletter aimed at informing stakeholders of all the initiatives undertaken by the Department in our quest to provide a supportive teaching and learning environment to schools across the province.



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
EDUCATION

IN THIS EDITION...

5

School Infrastructure in context

9

Projects completed to restore storm damaged school facilities

17

Study conducted to ascertain prevalence of Asbestos in school infrastructure



THE YEAR OF UNITY AND RENEWAL TO DEFEND AND ADVANCE SOUTH AFRICA'S DEMOCRATIC GAINS



4

Message from the MEC:
Education is a core priority and a reliable tool with which to transform the socio-economic outlook of our province.

5

School Infrastructure in context

8

Port St. John's schools ravaged by floods

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS:

[3] AMATHOLE [7] SOUTH AFRICA [8] CAFUTWENI [9] SANITATION [10] FURNITURE [12] ABANDONED [13] OSCAR MABUYANE [17] GIAMA [18] SIXTY

DOWN:

[1] MSWAKAZI [2] FENCING [4] FUNDILE GADE [5] MAINTENANCE. [6] WATER [11] NDP [14] SAKHISIDIMA [15] ASBESTOS [16] EFMS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

9

Projects completed
to restore storm damaged
school facilities

15

EFMS interprovincial
committee constituted

17

Study conducted to
ascertain prevalence of
Asbestos in
school infrastructure



Mr Fundile Gade
MEC for Education

MESSAGE FROM THE MEC

Education is a core priority and a reliable tool with which to transform the socio-economic outlook of our province.

The end of the financial year and the start of the new financial year is a hectic period for Government as we need to account to the nation on progress towards a better life for all and outline our strategy for the next cycle to bring our long-term plans to fruition.

The cyclical nature of our work requires that we provide an account to all of our stakeholders on progress in delivering on our annual plans.

The Provincial Budget, State of the Province, and the Policy & Budget Speeches are all aligned to ensure that, as a province we have a single vision of purpose.

As alluded by the MEC of Finance and Economic Development in his Provincial Budget Speech, education is a core priority and a reliable tool with which to transform the socio-economic outlook of our province.

I delivered the Education Budget and Policy speech on 28 March 2023.

The infrastructure program is fundamental to the quality of education that we deliver in our province, serving as the backbone of the broader education system. The 2023/24 allocation for Infrastructure Development, to ensure that we can consistently provide infrastructure conducive to teaching and learning, amounts to R1.829 billion.

As regulated 60% of this allocation will be applied to facilities maintenance and the balance will be applied to providing infrastructure facilities in the form of basic services, classrooms, hostel accommodation, security fencing, and new schools including those aligned to our inclusive education policy.

In this edition of **Sakh'isidima News** we outline our priority areas for this financial year as shared with the public during a media briefing on 31 March 2023.

A major part of our maintenance efforts includes the restoration of schools ravaged by storms. A case in point is the almost 40 schools that were damaged in Port. St. John's during the floods earlier this month. Many of these schools were totally inaccessible and suffered structural damage. The Department's response has been swift to make alternative arrangements for displaced learners.

An amount of R124 million, as confirmed by MEC Mvoko in the Provincial Budget Speech, has been allocated to continue the work of rehabilitating and upgrading schools damaged by floods.

To address infrastructure backlogs an amount of R1 billion has been allocated to an indirect infrastructure backlog grant administered by the National Department of Basic Education. Backlogs in classroom accommodation will be prioritised.

A coordinated commitment is required to change the socio-economic course of our province through the delivery of a quality education. This needs to be supported by decent school infrastructure for optimal teaching and learning.

We will not relinquish our duty to deliver on our mandate as public officials, the duty to create a better life for all the people of our province through the instrument of quality education.


Mr Fundile Gade
MEC for Education
Eastern Cape Province



School Infrastructure in context



P Ludidi, ECDoE Communications



State of Province Address, Provincial Budget Speech and Department of Education Budget and Policy Speech

Story by: Tinashe Mutema

In the year 2022/23 we commemorated the first decade of the National Development Plan (NDP), the pivot of national policy towards Vision 2030.

Education is a special and crucial component of the NDP. It is a non-negotiable priority and as such we have witnessed a tremendous up shift in the quality of education over the last decade.

This is affirmed by our provincial Matric pass rate which has been on an upward trajectory for the past five years, bar the disruption caused by the pandemic in 2020.

The momentum of our matric performance has aroused a strong sense of belief amongst our stakeholders - we are repositioning our province as the goose that lays the golden egg, "The Home of Legends."

We have the support of our Premier, Mr Oscar Mabuyane, who in his State of the Province Address stirred the waters first and challenged the province towards attaining the elusive 80% provincial pass mark.

In the previous financial year, we managed to reboot our education system and recover it from the menacing jaws of the COVID-19 virus. The sustained improvement in the matric pass rate is testimony of the resilience of our system.

As we launch the last course towards Vision 2030, we renew our unwavering commitment to provide education that can empower learners of all ages and abilities with knowledge sufficient to impact the world into a better place for all.

As alluded by the MEC of Finance and Economic Development in his Provincial Budget Speech, education is a core priority and a reliable tool with which to transform the socio-economic outlook of our province.

The infrastructure program is fundamental to the quality of education that we deliver in our province. The program is the backbone of the broader education spectrum by providing a safe place of teaching and learning.

Our 2023/24 budget is alive to this expectation and endeavors to fulfill it. In the current year we will launch a penultimate onslaught on the last remaining pit toilets. We will endeavor to close the backlog on schools requiring sanitation facilities. This has been a thorny issue that we are dedicated to eliminate from our discourse.

The school beautification program should deliver new energy to our schools through upgrades and maintenance of school infrastructure. The program should deliver compliance to norms and standards for schools that have fallen behind in the maintenance of their facilities.

The fencing program continues in full force, as security of school infrastructure and property is a huge concern for the department. Fencing of school perimeters will enhance security.

Since the transfer of ECD from Social Development to Basic Education, we welcomed it fully aware of the enormity of the responsibility and will strive not to disappoint the trust showed in our capability.

In the current year we plan to build 31 Grade R classrooms. This is beyond the investment being made by the ASIDI program which is managed by the Department of Basic Education. We will always emphasise the importance of Early Childhood Development and will work tirelessly to provide solid foundations in early learning.

In the current financial year, we will prioritise the building of a new hostel at Healdtown Comprehensive School in Amathole West. The project has the support and backing of the Premier as mentioned in his State of the Nation Address.

Healdtown Comprehensive School is a school with a rich historical significance. During the previous era of discrimination and exclusion, the school provided a place of learning to prominent national leaders who went on to impact our journey to freedom as a country.

It is imperative that we preserve the legacy of the school and maintain its history so that we do not lose sight of where we have come from.

Water infrastructure will be provided to 280 schools and 20 schools will benefit from electricity infrastructure. Availability of water for food preparation and hygiene purposes and reliable energy supply are a non-negotiable accessory of norms and standards.

An amount of R124 million, as confirmed by MEC Mvoko in the Provincial Budget Speech, has been allocated to continue the work of rehabilitating and upgrading schools damaged by floods.

To address infrastructure backlogs an amount of R1 billion has been allocated to an indirect infrastructure backlog grant administered by the National Department of Basic Education.

The State of the Province Address by Premier Oscar Mabuyane, Provincial Budget speech by MEC Mvoko and our Budget and Policy speech has put beyond doubt our coordinated commitment to changing the socio-economic course of our province through the delivery of quality education.

Photo by Joshua Gaunt on Unsplash

Media Briefing on school infrastructure

The MEC for Education, Mr Fundile Gade, briefed the media on 31 March 2023 on key infrastructure achievements and ongoing plans to provide and improve education facilities across the province. **Here are some of the highlights...**

Top Takeaways School Infrastructure

1

COMPLETED SCHOOLS

In the new financial year, we will **reignite the building of abandoned projects starting with 10 major projects at an estimated cost of R20 million.** The building of a Hostel at **Healdtown Comprehensive School** in Amathole West District will be **prioritised.**

Between March 2021 and December 2022, **31 Schools valued at R1.8 billion** were handed over to stakeholders including communities. We will continue to hand over new schools as they are completed.

REIGNITING ABANDONED PROJECTS

2

The move of the ECD function to the Department of Education was finalised in 2022 and **we will continue to provide Grade R infrastructure to cover the gap in ECD facilities.** In 2022 we provided 32 classrooms towards meeting this need.

3

ECD CENTRES

To make sure our schools are safe, **our latest fencing program includes projects at 191 schools across the province.** To date, 30 projects have been completed and 106 are in different stages of construction.

SECURITY FENCING

4

In responding to overcrowding and infrastructure challenges in identified schools, **78 fabricated classrooms were relocated** last year to 18 schools. We also provided 319 additional classrooms in existing schools.

5

CLASSROOMS

Towards the latter part of 2022, we announced that **120 schools will benefit from our school maintenance program.** To date **33 projects are completed** providing a much-needed facelift to existing facilities.

SCHOOL RENOVATIONS

6

In our efforts to provide a conducive environment for teaching and learning we are **supplying 80 single combination desks** to 188 schools at a cost of R60 million.

7

SCHOOL FURNITURE

The **SAFE initiative** in Eastern Cape consists of 1 451 projects. Of these, **858 have been completed,** 182 are in different stages of construction, and 192 are in tendering stage. Further to the sanitation program, a **desludging operation including 507 schools is under way.**

SANITATION

8

Schools in the province are regularly damaged by inclement weather conditions. Roofs are blown away, structures collapse, and classrooms are damaged by wind and rain. These conditions were traditionally experienced during December and January, but climate change has made these events more unpredictable.

A total of 120 schools were included in the emergency and disaster rehabilitation programme undertaken by the Department of Education (DoE) as well as the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) in 2022.

As a result of our quick response, we have been able to minimise disruption to the teaching and learning program in affected schools. Instead of simply restoring damaged infrastructure facilities, we have upgraded them where necessary.

Under the program, 120 projects were identified and 77 have been completed with expenditure of close to R127.4 million.

Towards the end of March, mother nature struck again!

The South African Weather Services issued a level 2 warning across the OR Tambo Coastal district on 22 March 2023. Heavy rains followed during the morning, and signs of flooding appeared by the afternoon.

Water and electricity supplies, accessibility (due to damaged roads and bridges), and teaching and learning were adversely affected by this disaster. Hundreds of people were displaced and sheltered in places of safety.

King Sabata Dalindyebo, Nyandeni and Ingquza Hill Local Municipalities also reported being affected.

In the OR Tambo Coastal district, 39 schools with 11 616 learners were affected.


There have been 29 schools reported as being inaccessible due to bridges being swept away and serious damage to access roads. Six schools were reported as inaccessible due to swept-away roads, and four schools reported structural damage, which negatively affected teaching and learning.

Repair costs of five schools assessed (PSJ Roman Catholic JSS, Thekwini JSS, Nkangala SSS, Mswakazi JSS, and Zwelenqaba SPS) are estimated at R173 million.

Temporary and immediate relief has been provided through redirecting prefabricated classrooms to affected schools. Other assessments are underway.



Port St. Johns schools RAVAGED by floods



Several projects were completed by the Department of Education as Implementing Agent during February 2023, to repair and restore damages to school facilities damaged by storms.

The completed work included a combination of provision of new; or repairs and renovations to existing facilities, primarily basic services (water, electricity and sanitation), classrooms and admin spaces.

**STORM
DAMAGE**

**Projects
completed
to restore
storm damaged
SCHOOL FACILITIES**



BEFORE

Cafutweni Junior Secondary School

KuMilwa, Mnquma Local Municipality, Amathole East



DURING



AFTER



BEFORE

Mbanga Primary School

KuMbanga, Mbhashe Local Municipality, Amathole East



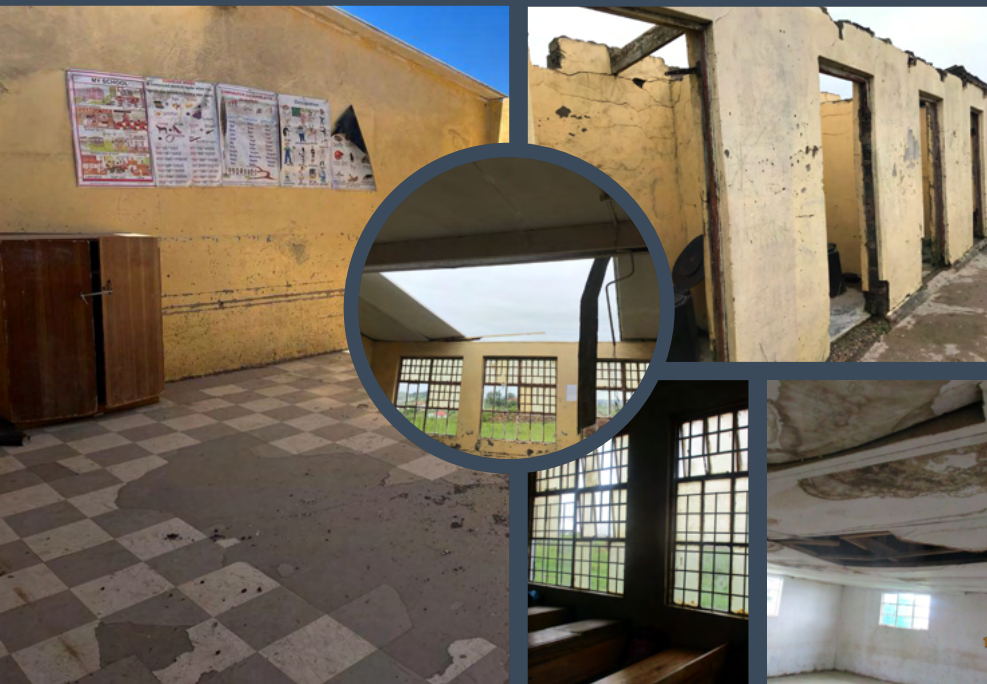
Project Cost
R2.9 million



DURING



AFTER



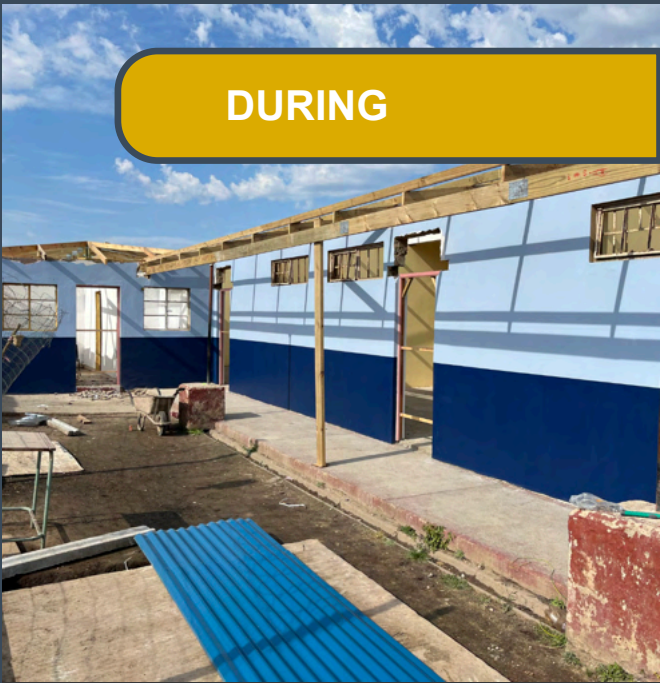
BEFORE

Mbanyana Secondary School

KwaKhawula, Mphashe Local Municipality, Amathole East



Project Cost
R2.6 million



DURING



AFTER



BEFORE

Nonzwakazi Primary School

Amavundle, Tsolwana Local Municipality, Chris Hani West



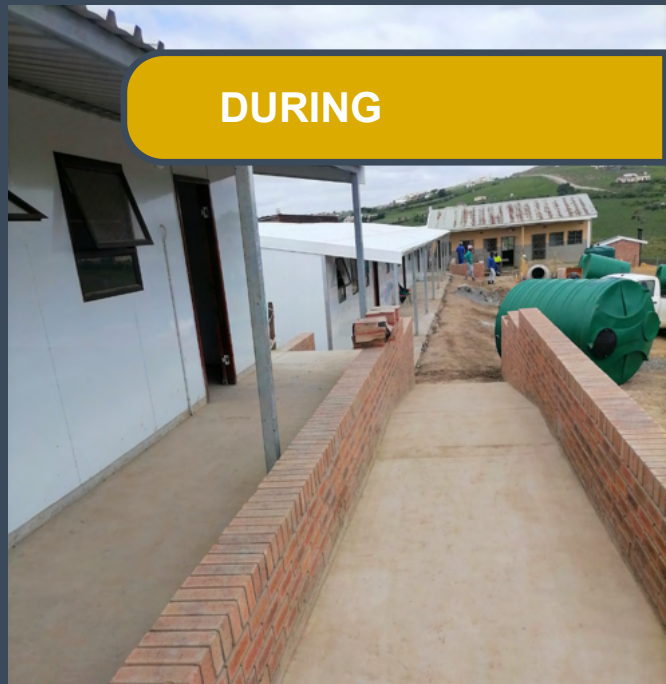
Project Cost
R941 000



DURING



AFTER



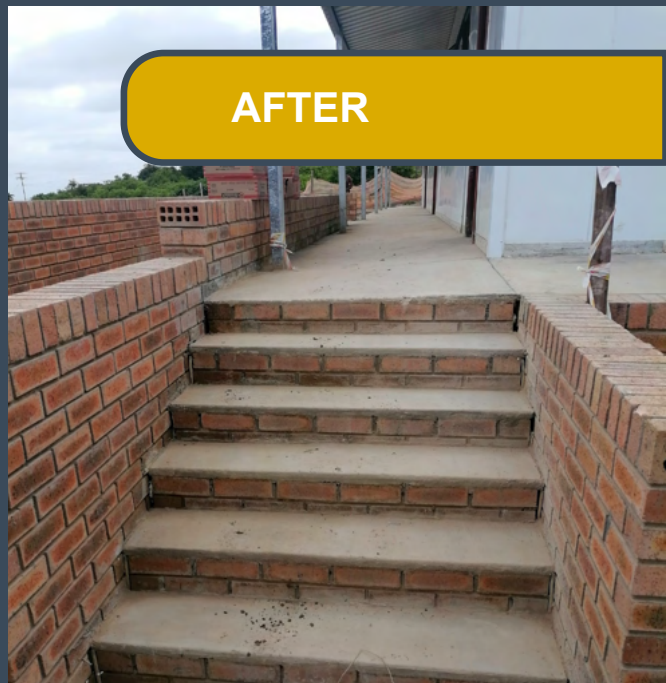
DURING

Mzongwana Junior Secondary School

Edangeni, Nyandeni Local Municipality, OR Tambo Coastal

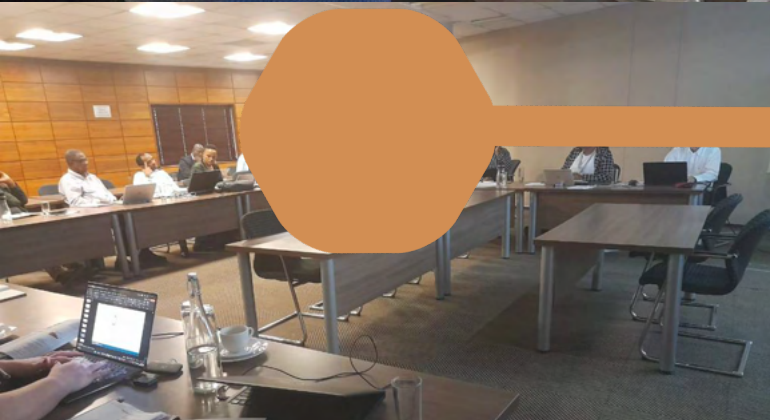


Project Cost
R9.1 million



AFTER





EFMS interprovincial committee constituted

An inter-provincial committee has been constituted primarily to advise HEDCOM on various matters related to the status and institutionalisation of the Education Facilities Management system (EFMS) as well as to share best practices.

As the backbone of the education infrastructure facilities management portfolio it is essential that the EFMS is absorbed and used by the education sector for project and property management by all relevant stakeholders.

As with any system of this magnitude ongoing enhancements are required to ensure smooth functioning and this team is responsible for making recommendations in this regard.

Given the strong reliance on EFMS for planning, implementation monitoring and reporting on education sector projects and real time information on assets, it is crucial that quality data is populated on the system and that the system itself is integrated and aligned to other systems.

The committee is chaired by the DBE Director responsible for Infrastructure and will meet on a bi-monthly basis at the very least.

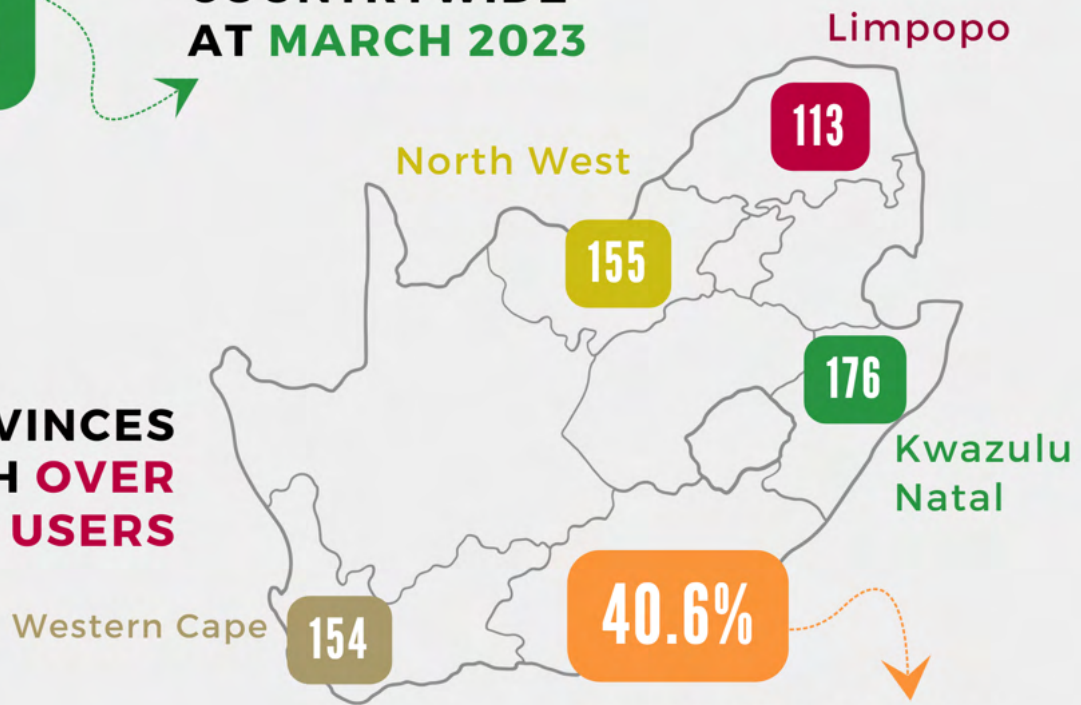


EFMS USER STATISTICS

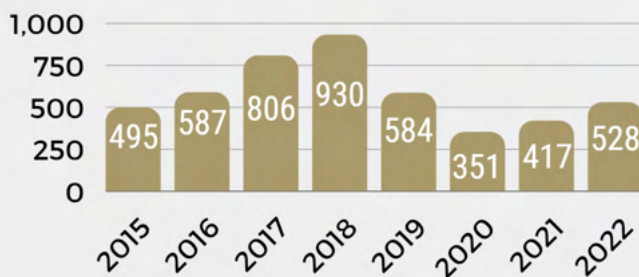
1 403

**USERS
COUNTRYWIDE
AT MARCH 2023**

**PROVINCES
WITH OVER
100 USERS**



NUMBER OF EASTERN CAPE USERS 2015-2022

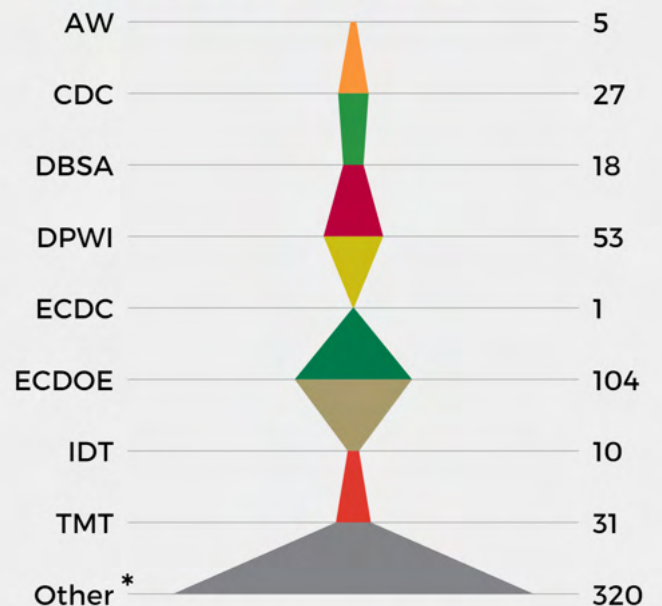


- The Eastern Cape EFMS contains 5 314 properties and 12 130 projects which are in different stages of planning and implementation.
- The EFMS team fielded 1 057 user enquiries in 2022.
- EFMS training is conducted on a monthly basis on both the properties & the project modules.

Source: EFMS Eastern Cape

OF USERS ARE IN THE EASTERN CAPE

EASTERN CAPE USERS... WHO ARE THEY?



*Principal Agents (on projects) / Professional Service Providers

Study conducted to ascertain prevalence of ASBESTOS in school infrastructure

School is supposed to be a place of learning and growth, but what happens when the very building that houses our children becomes a threat to their health? This is the reality for many children in South Africa attending schools built with asbestos. Despite being banned in most countries, this harmful substance continues to plague communities across the country, posing serious health risks to students and teachers alike.

Asbestos exposure is a known cause of mesothelioma, a deadly form of cancer. Asbestos fibers can enter the body through inhalation or ingestion and can remain there for years before causing health problems. Children are especially vulnerable to the effects of asbestos because their bodies are still developing.

South Africa has a long history of using asbestos in buildings, and many of our schools are still riddled with the deadly fibre. Asbestos was only banned in South Africa in 2008, which means that most of our schools were built before this time and are likely to contain asbestos structures.

In accordance with legislative requirements the Eastern Cape Department of Education (DoE), Physical Resources Management (PRM) team, conducted building condition assessments, at the same time also testing for the prevalence of asbestos in roofing.

Of the 1 074 schools assessed:

- Asbestos samples were collected from 936.
- 12.8% (138) were not tested for asbestos as the roofs had been replaced since the last condition assessments.
- Six were inaccessible.

The condition assessment evaluations are conducted in accordance with the NEIMS 3 condition assessment methodology, which is a standardised framework used in South Africa for evaluating the state of school infrastructure. The primary goal is to ensure the buildings are secure, functional, and conducive to learning. Performing assessments of the quality of school infrastructure is crucial to ensuring that South African schools offer a welcoming learning environment for all children. For these inspections, the NEIMS 3 methodology offers a uniform framework that can help identify areas of need and guarantee that repairs and improvements are carried out consistently and successfully.

Why are infrastructure assessments conducted?

1

Condition evaluations must be done every five years in line with the requirements of the Government Immovable Asset Management Act (GIAMA). The information influences the department's long-term planning by highlighting the schools that should receive priority for infrastructure needs.

2

Eastern Cape has vast rural settlements which are traditionally underdeveloped. Schools in these areas have historically suffered from a lack of infrastructure and may not have the funding necessary to maintain their facilities. Consequently, schools may become hazardous or dysfunctional and the quality of education that learners get may be impacted negatively.

3

There is a history of unequal access to education in South Africa, and many schools in underprivileged areas might not have as good of an infrastructure as those in wealthier ones. Infrastructure discrepancies between schools can be found and addressed by conducting assessments using a consistent methodology.

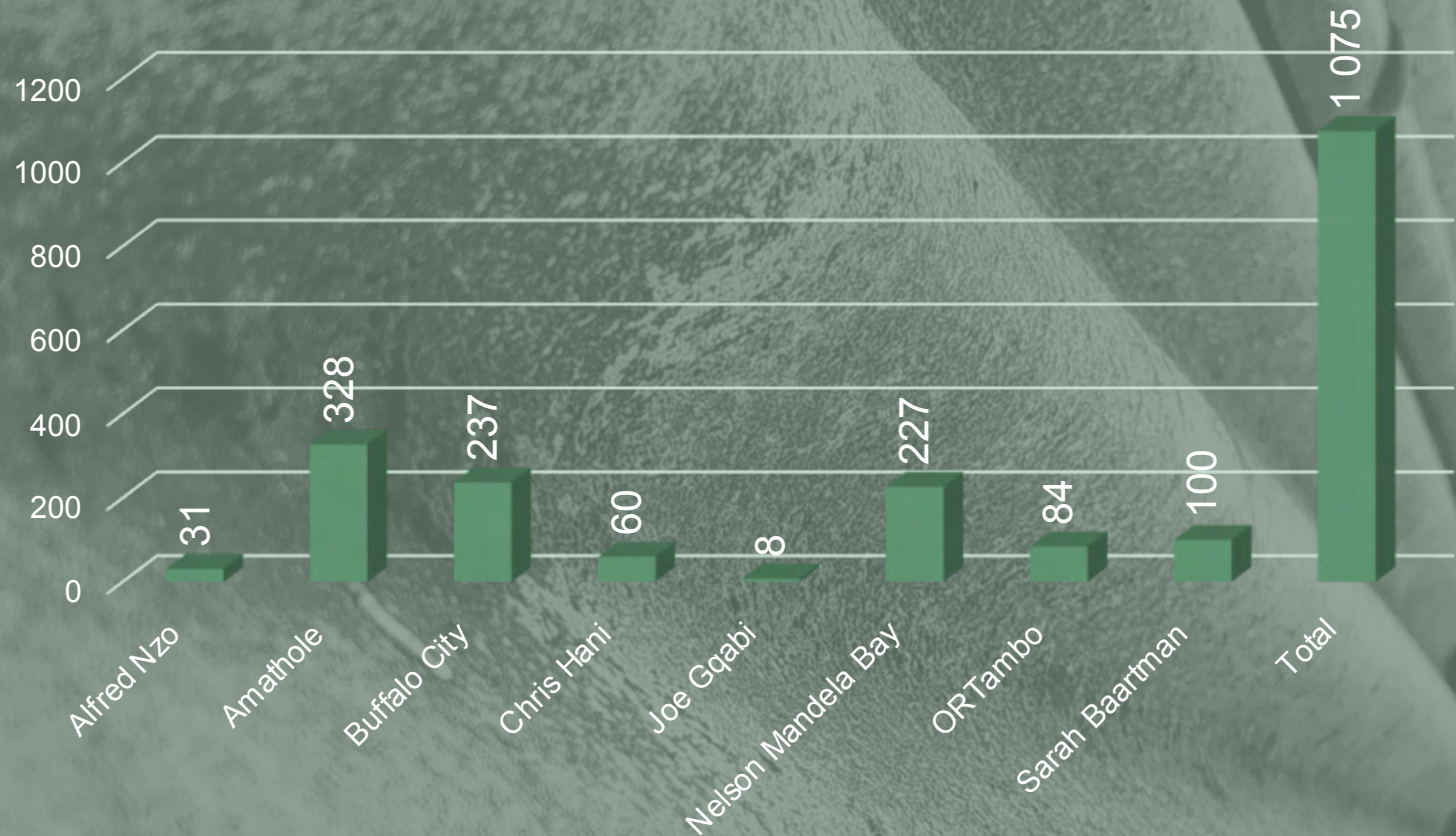
4

Routine inspections can help discover areas that require improvements or repairs, which can help avoid future, more expensive repairs. Assessments can also aid in identifying safety risks, such as faulty electrical or roofing systems, so that they can be fixed before endangering learners and staff.

A group of experts from the provincial government's infrastructure division oversaw the Public-School Condition Assessment Study. The project team was in charge of organising the assessment activity, supervising the field teams, making recommendations for repair and maintenance work where appropriate; and guaranteeing the quality of the assessment reports.

The Condition Assessment Project has achieved its objective of assessing the physical condition of public schools and identifying necessary repair and maintenance work. The project has provided the Department of Education with valuable information that can be used to prioritise and budget for repair and maintenance work. The project team worked collaboratively to ensure the successful completion of the project, and valuable lessons have been learned that can be applied to future infrastructure projects.

Schools included in the asbestos study



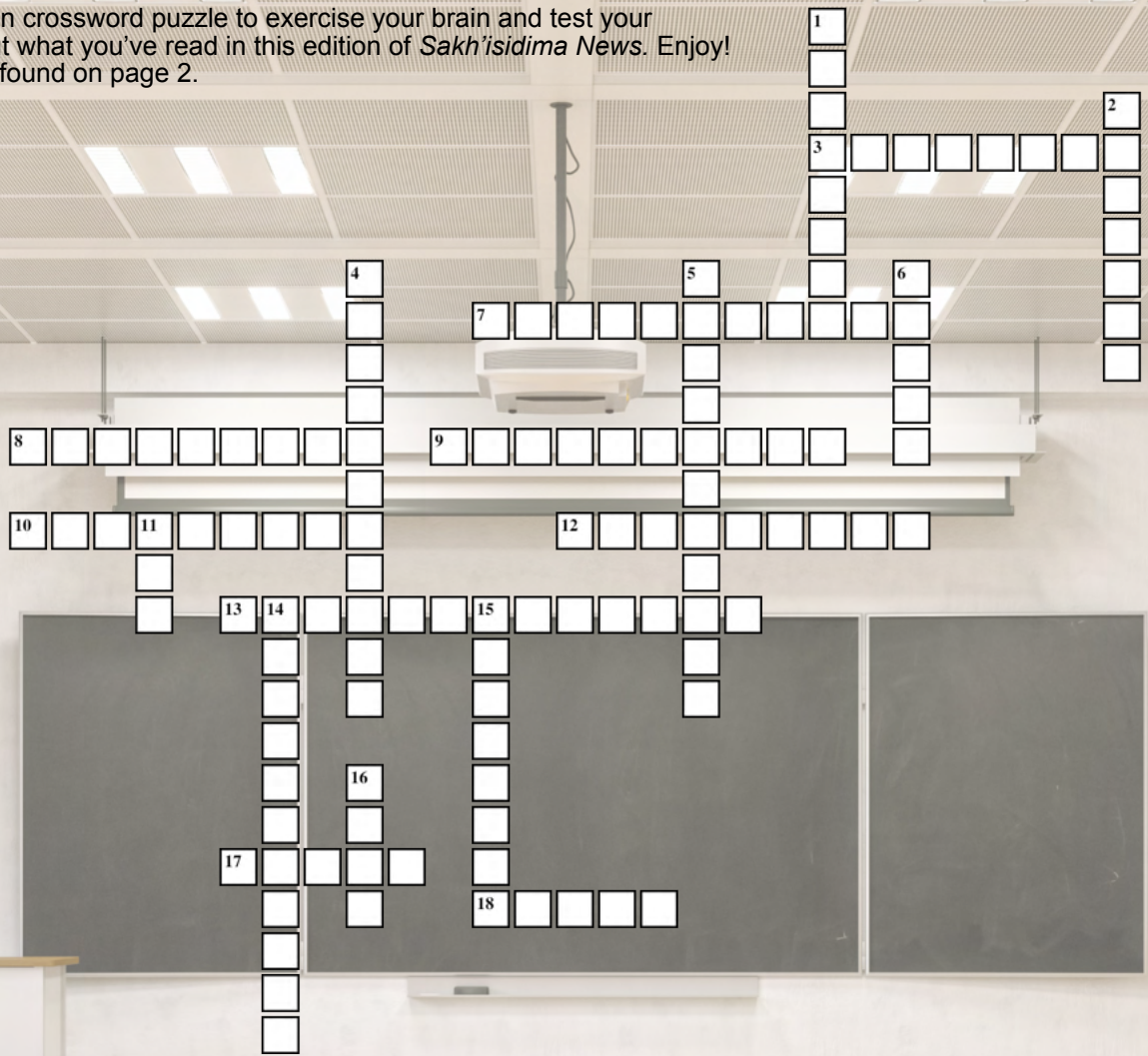
ABOUT THIS STUDY...

- Assessments were conducted in the two Metropolitan and the six District Municipalities.
- The schools included in the study were drawn from the Education Facilities Management System (EFMS).
- The highest number of schools in the study were in Amathole District Municipality (328), followed by Buffalo City Metro (237); and Nelson Mandela Bay Metro (227).
- In terms of school size, the study included 559 micro/small schools and 517 medium/mega schools.
- An Android based App was used to capture data in real time (on site).
- Technical staff were used to conduct the assessments and strict quality control measures were built into the assessment process.
- Assessment reports were loaded onto the EFMS.

SAKH'ISIDIMA NEWS – MARCH 2023

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE...

Complete this fun crossword puzzle to exercise your brain and test your knowledge about what you've read in this edition of *Sakh'isidima News*. Enjoy! Solution can be found on page 2.



Across

- [3] The highest number of schools included in the asbestos assessment study can be found in this district municipality.
- [7] The use of asbestos was banned in this country in 2008.
- [8] The project to repair this storm damaged school situated in the Mnquma local municipality, was recently completed at a cost of R4.2 million.
- [9] This type of infrastructure is delivered through the SAFE program.
- [10] Without this resource, learners would need to be taught sitting on the floor.
- [12] The term used for projects where contractors have deserted the construction sites.
- [13] This person delivered the 2023 Eastern Cape State of the Province Address.
- [17] This Act (acronym) places a responsibility on the Eastern Cape Department of Education to conduct condition assessments of its assets every five years.
- [18] The percentage of the annual Education Infrastructure Grant (EIG) allocation which should go towards maintenance of facilities.

Down

- [1] This school suffered damages because of recent floods in Port St. Johns.
- [2] This type of infrastructure is provided to control unauthorised access to schools.
- [4] The top political principal for Education in the Eastern Cape.
- [5] All schools are required to keep their facilities in good condition through this activity.
- [6] This type of infrastructure is critical for hygiene purposes.
- [11] The acronym for South Africa's road map to 2030.
- [14] The name of the monthly school infrastructure newsletter produced by the Eastern Cape Department of Education.
- [15] This substance, found in old infrastructure, poses a health risk.
- [16] This system (acronym) contains a wealth of information of all education facilities in the Eastern Cape.



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Eastern Cape Department
of Education, Physical
Resources Management

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