



29 March 2022

Provincial week education sites in OR Tambo District Municipality, Eastern Cape

1. Background and introduction

In the OR Tambo District Municipality, Eastern Cape, the NCOP Permanent Delegates will focus on the provision of adequate school infrastructure in rural areas and townships. A list of the sites will be discussed below.

2. Sites to be viewed

2.1. Tekwini Junior Secondary School

The Tekwini J.S.S. which is located at Mtalala is part of Caguba A/A in Port St Johns. It is a very old school which was formed in the Dutch Reformed Church (DRC) in 1936, and the teachers were evangelists at that time according to the elders. It is in a rural area, and most of the parents are unemployed, which means they depend upon social grants. Since the prefabs here were built in 1985, the infrastructure is appalling and dilapidated.

There are 502 learners attending the school in 2022, an increase of 10 and 52 respectively from 2020 and 2021. There are currently 14 staff members working for the school, made up of 10 Post Level 1 educators, 2 Deputy Principals, and a Principal. This represents an increase of one from 2021. The state of the structure of the school is depicted in the figure below.

Figure 1: Tekwini JSS state of the buildings



Source: Tekwini JSS school readiness presentation, January 2022.



Challenges

- Old and overcrowded classrooms that the SGB and some parents open to Cutting Edge last September.
- Staff and learners use pit latrines for ablution.
- Insufficient classroom space, and the school hall built by SGB also serves as a classroom.
- Roofs leak and are deteriorating.
- There are no libraries, laboratories, or playgrounds for learners use.
- No mobile kitchen for the NSNP, the contractor sent an old container and the SGB refused to accept it.
- There is insufficient furniture for the staff.
- The stationery is insufficient.
- The LTSM for 2022 not fully provided, only workbooks were delivered but no textbooks.
- No Wi-Fi or data to ensure laptops are used by teachers.
- No scholar transportation provided.
- Returning textbooks remains a challenge since not all students comply.
- The furniture for storing items is insufficient. For example, out of 12 cupboards, 10 of them are in poor condition and additional 10 cupboards are necessary.
- School fencing is inadequate.
- Discipline associated with drug and substance abuse.
- The Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign (QLTC) structures have not yet been established.
- Security personnel employed by the SGBs receive a low stipend.
- The admin clerk has resigned, so there is a vacancy.

Desired solutions

- A timely supply of stationery and textbooks by the Department.
- The Department should provide the necessary furniture.
- The department needs to build permanent structures with proper facilities, including ablution facilities, as promised that the building would be done by 2020.
- The department builds libraries and supports students to motivate them to perform better than their current performance.
- Scholar transport must be provided for learners who travel more than 5 kilometres to and from school. Distances travelled by these learners affect their concentration due to fatigue of walking long distances.
- A proper fence should be installed to control student movement in schools and to protect school property.
- The appointment of support staff such as admin clerks and security personnel to assist with proper security should be considered.
- To assist the learners and the school regarding substance abuse, there is a need for more stakeholder engagement and visibility from Police, Social Service and Social Development.



2.2. Senior Secondary School

Caguba senior secondary school started in January 2019 through the process of realignment and rationalisation. The school started with grades 8, 9 and 10. The combination of learners from nearby primary schools drove the enrollment number to 314 learners in 2019. According to 2019 PPN, the school started with only 7 educators and no LTSM was supplied.

The school offers three subject streams such as commerce, sciences and general. The school infrastructure is dilapidated and insufficient, resulting in rotation of learners by streams. There are 10 classrooms and a further 25 is required 25 to support the growing numbers. There are 512 learners attending the school in 2022. There are currently 19 staff members working for the school, made up of 9 Post-Level 1 educators, 1 DH, 2 administrations staff, 3 servers, 2 general workers, 2 social change agents and a Principal. The state of the structure of the school is depicted in the figure below

Achievements

- Championship of the establishment of the Secondary School.
- Secured Umngazi donation known as Pondo Pedal Project, leading to the building of a mini-Hall.
- Girls are receiving sanitary towels from Umngazi Hotel through donation initiatives.

Challenges

- Shortage and dilapidated classrooms.
- No specialised resource rooms like science lab, computer lab and school hall.
- Insufficient and appalling ablution facilities to serve the growing number of learners.
- Water and Sanitation.
- Shortage of furniture.
- Shortage of LTSM (Text books).
- Overall shortage of teachers, i.e. there is one teacher for Isixhosa FET and no teacher for Mathematical Literacy FET.
- HOD withdrawn from final PPN 2021.

Desired solutions

- Department of Education (DoE) to provide the school with more teachers.
- DOE must supply tablets for learners and text books
- DOE must supply furniture.
- DoE must supply the school with water tanks and toilets



2.3. Mncwathi Senior Secondary School

There are 911 learners enrolled at Mncwathi SSS in 2022. The school has a staff complement of 22, made up of 17 Post-level 1 educators, 3 Head of Departments, 1 administration clerk, 1 Deputy Principal and 1 Principal. Additional to that, the school participates in the school nutrition programme, 4 meal servers ensure that 786 learners are provided with nutritious meals daily. The school infrastructure is made up of 14 classrooms.

Challenges

- Shortage and poor classrooms, office space and other required spaces, i.e. classrooms are prefabricated. HOD`s, staff and kitchen are accommodated in temporary structures.
- Shortage of furniture.
- Staff shortage.
- Shortage of resources.
- Teenage pregnancy.
- Insufficient ablution facilities, i.e. the 18 existing pit latrines.

Desired solutions

- Provision of new building structures and furniture.
- Additional resources.
- Employment of educators.
- Ablution facilities.
- Awareness campaigns.

3. Issues for consideration

The NCOP engages the Eastern Cape Provincial Department of Education in seeking clarity on the challenges raised by the schools and also reports on the plans to address the challenges as highlighted. Furthermore, the NCOP should establish progress in terms of addressing the challenges and infrastructure provision initiatives that seek to address the challenges the schools in the region encounter.

4. Reference

Eastern Cape Department of Education (2022). Tekwini JSS school readiness presentation, January 2022.

Eastern Cape Department of Education (2022). Caguba SSS, OR Tambo Coastal District Presentation

Eastern Cape Department of Education (2022). Mncwathi Senior Secondary School school readiness presentation, January 2022.