



PARLIAMENT
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NCOP PROVINCIAL WEEK 2022

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NCOP DELEGATION CALLS ON EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO HONOUR ITS RESPONSIBILITIES



Eastern Cape's permanent delegates to the NCOP with their counterparts, Members of the Eastern Cape Legislature visited Cagula secondary school, Tekwini Secondary School in the OR Tambo District Municipality, and Mncwathi High school, in the Alfred Nzo district municipality.

The Eastern Cape's permanent delegates to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) have called upon the provincial Department of Education to improve the quality of support it provides to schools in rural communities, writes *Mava Lukani*.

The delegates visited OR Tambo District's Caguba and Tekwini secondary schools, as well as Alfred Nzo District's Mncwathi

and Lundini secondary schools to assess, among other things, infrastructure and scholar transport. The delegates, accompanied by Members of the Eastern Cape Legislature, received briefings from the Eastern Cape Department of Education's district officials.

During the briefings, the delegates heard that besides the basic infrastructural challenges

experienced by schools in the OR Tambo and Alfred Nzo villages, there are other challenges including the limited stationary supply to rural schools in January. The delegates heard that some schools received only 10% of the stationary they required. According to the Members of the Eastern Cape Legislature, the department assured schools that they would 100% of their stationary needs in January.

School principals and members of school governing bodies also complained about the longstanding unavailability of water at schools. They have lost hope the department will ever resolve the problem. Although school transportation is still a challenge, but the delegates heard that the department is beginning to provide transport to children

using inappropriate building materials. The schools are overcrowded and have pit toilets that are a health hazard. Governing body members were happy that Members of Parliament came to the schools to see the situation for themselves.

The leader of the delegation, Ms Nokuzola Ndongeni, urged senior

responsibility. "Please officials ensure that all the support that the department is constitutionally responsible to provide is provided before the parents of children who are at schools go to their graves with bitterness that you didn't do what you were supposed to do."

The delegation appreciated the progress that has been



The delegates focused on infrastructure, scholar transport, and water and sanitation.

who stay far away from schools. The delegates heard that the community had built Mncwathi and Lundini Secondary Schools

provincial education department officials to ensure that schools receive the assistance they need. Such assistance is not a privilege, but government's constitutional

achieved in other areas, such as the good matric results, which some of the schools achieved notwithstanding their situation.



KOPANONG MUNICIPALITY SUFFERS FROM POOR INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE AND NON-PAYMENT FOR WATER

The National Council of Provinces (NCOP) Provincial Week delegates in the Free State were concerned about the neglect of key infrastructure, particularly in the Kopanong Municipality, writes *Tebatso Mabilisa*.

Permanent delegates visited the Reddersburg, Sprinfontein and Jagersfontein waste water plants. All sites lacked a secure fence and pumps were either stolen or vandalised. NCOP delegates also saw vegetation in the ponds that

are supposed to hold water.

In Reddersburg, all ponds were dry, as there are no pumps. Also, animals could easily enter the facility and there was cow dung strewn all over the facility. NCOP



Overgrown ponds in the Kopanong municipality lead to poor water service delivery.

delegate Ms Karabo Khakhau asked about measures to ensure tighter security and strategies to pay Bloemwater, a Free State water utility company.

The municipality's Mr Marshal Moloto: acting Operations Manager said they are looking for ways to pay Bloemwater by installing smart water metres. The municipality also plans to erect a fence to secure assets once it has the correct equipment to do so.

Another delegate, Mr Adriaan de Bruyn, was baffled as to why boreholes belonged to Bloemwater and not the municipality. MPs felt that this needs to be investigated. The national Department of Water and Sanitation was also present, but its representatives said they had not received the municipality's business plan timeously and are still busy processing it.

The Springfontein waste water plant also had no perimeter fence or pump and was infested with weeds. There were also reportedly lots of snakes in the facility. NCOP delegate Mr George Michalakis said this is because there is no maintenance. The site should be kept tidy, he said. Mr Jerry Moitse, municipal Speaker, admitted that they could not defend their mistakes.

All the boreholes in Fouriesmit belonged to the municipality, but are operated and maintained by Bloemwater. The municipality wants its own machinery, so it can stop relying on the water utility company. Jagersfontein was better maintained and NCOP delegates were generally happy with the site.

In response to a statement from NCOP delegate Ms Lydia

Mashodi that the mayor should ensure that all posts are filled and acting posts done away with by the next financial year, Mayor Xolile Tseletsele asserted that the municipality is set to change for the better. In closing, Mr de Bruyn thanked all participants and stated that oversight should happen more often.



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WESTERN CAPE BUILDS INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES, WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE OR INCOME



The Social and Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme Housing Models are blueprints for smart, safe and affordable human settlements. They are meant to provide houses, not only for the homeless, but also to spur social cohesion. They bring to life the notion of inclusive communities without regard to race or income, said the Director of Communication and Stakeholder Relations, Western Cape Provincial Government, *Mr Nathan Adriaanse*.

Kosovo Housing Project in

Woodlands in Mitchells Plain is a case in point. It's aimed at integrating Woodlands backyard dwellers and the residents of the Kosovo Informal Settlement as one cohesive community, he told the NCOP's delegation during its site visit to this project, which is nearing completion.

But it was not easy, he attested, "There were those who oppose the idea of an integrated community. They wanted this project to cater for Woodland backyard dwellers only." But "we

explained its rationale and that the future of housing models in the country are meant to be racially inclusive. They had no choice but to back down and embrace our integrated model."

To ensure there's transparency and openness in how this project unfolds from inception to completion, he added, "We have enlisted two liaison officers from Woodlands and Kosovo Informal Settlement to constantly update their respective communities about the timeframes and



Housing development project



NCOP delegates being briefed

milestones of the project in relation to occupancy and the verification of housing registers to ensure that houses are handed over to rightful owners or beneficiaries." Its first phase, which is nearing completion, will accommodate 217 families. The project should be completed in July 2022.

Thereafter, the delegation went to view the Rocklands housing project, which is still in its infancy. Housing development has not started, but earth work is well underway. The Housing Development Agency, which is in charge of this site, intends to create a high-density cross subsidy housing units. The Leader of the

NCOP's Delegation, Ms Cathlene Labuschagne, wanted to know about the architectural models for such houses, given the limiting radius of the plot of land on which these houses would be built.

"This development will consist of one to four-storey buildings to accommodate as many families as possible due to the limiting carrying capacity of its plot radius," replied the Manager of Stakeholders, Western Cape Housing Development Agency, Mr Shuaib January.

NCOP delegate Mr Mbulelo Sileku wanted to know if research had been undertaken to determine

which model would best address Rocklands' residents' housing needs. Mr January explained that after determining housing demand with the City of Cape Town, they decided to go with a high-density model.

Given that you have decided to erect social housing, who will be responsible for their upkeep in future, enquired Ms Labuschagne. There is a standing agreement, said Mr January, that the Department of Human Settlement will take care of the upkeep of social houses.



MPUMALANGA PROVINCE COMMITS TO POTHOLE-FREE TOURISM ROUTES

The Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport has committed to create pothole-free tourism routes in the province by the end of the 2022/23 financial year. This commitment was made by the department's HOD, Mr Charles Morolo, during a National Council of Provinces' (NCOP's) Mpumalanga delegation oversight visit to a road rehabilitation project.

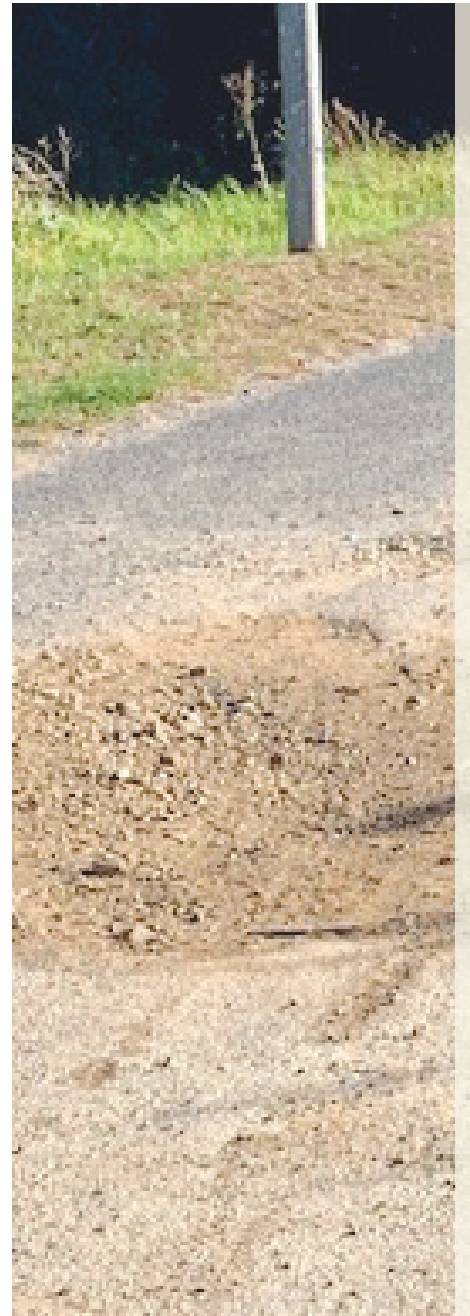
As part of Provincial Week activities, the delegation yesterday conducted an oversight visit to the R535 road between Hazyview and Graskop, where rehabilitation work is underway. The road connects Hazyview, a popular gateway to the world-renowned Kruger National Park, and other tourist attractions such as the Three Rondavels and God's Window.

The HOD told the NCOP delegation that the tourism industry is a major contributor to the province's economy and the road network

is important for tourists as they travel around the province. "We are committing ourselves to pothole-free tourism routes by the end of the financial year 2022/23. We are working with municipalities in the province to come up with a plan to address our road infrastructure challenges," said Mr Morolo.

Another business sector that is impacted by the poor road conditions is the scholar-transport programme, a Department of Education and Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport initiative. It provides transport to learners living more than five kilometres from school.

Scholar transport operators in Bushbuckridge Local Municipality told the NCOP delegation that the poor roads are an obstacle to their operations and on rainy days some schools cannot be accessed at all.



The Executive Mayor of Bushbuckridge, Ms Sylvia Nxumalo, said plans are underway to pave all access roads to key public institutions, such as schools and clinics. She also told the NCOP that due to budget constraints, the plan cannot be carried out in one financial year.

The delegation also visited Thaba Chweu Local Municipality where they received a report about aging water infrastructure that struggles to service the growing communities in the area.

The municipality was also commended for receiving an unqualified audit opinion from

the Auditor-General, for the first time after 10 years of consecutive disclaimers. "To move from a disclaimer to an unqualified audit is commendable. We hope you sustain it and improve on your financial performance and service delivery," said Mr Jomo Nyambi, the House Chairperson for Committees and Oversight in the NCOP.

He also emphasised the importance of parliamentary oversight, which should not be a "tick box" exercise. "We want to assist in resolving challenges on the ground; we want permanent solutions and not piecemeal solutions," he said. "Now we have a better sense of what is happening and the challenges in the provinces in terms of capacity to delivery services such as water and roads," Mr Nyambi said.



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