

EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE



HON. JANE COWLEY, MPL

**B. Sc. (University of Stellenbosch)
HED (UNISA)**

**M. Ed (Mathematics) Rhodes University
Shadow MEC DEDEAT**

**Deputy Shadow MEC Education
Portfolio Committee in Finance**

Chairperson: Provincial Fundraising Committee



Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature
Bhisho
Eastern Cape

15 February 2018

For attention: MEC Makupula, Mr Tywakadi, My Kojana

Dear Sirs

Re: Bhongweni Primary School

I conducted an oversight visit to the above school at the request of an East London councillor and was quite horrified to find the following:

- a) Four zinc shacks, two temporary (DoE) classrooms, two wooden classrooms built by the parents out of pallets. These house 405 learners.
- b) The wooden classrooms have no floors, and the wooden and zinc classrooms have only one or sometimes two windows. It is incredibly dark inside, even on a sunny day, which is very damaging to eyesight.
- c) NO ablution facilities. The parents tried to construct three toilets, but they are collapsing and hazardous, so cannot be used. Children currently go to the toilet outside and teachers use a bucket in the office. They try not to drink fluids in the morning so that they don't have to do this.
- d) No electricity. The classrooms are very dark and this impedes successful learning activity, especially on cloudy or rainy days when the learners cannot see at all. This also means that educators have to do photostating some distance from the school at a private home.

I am fully aware of the circumstances surrounding the land on which the school is built, but I am also aware that the school has written permission from BCM municipality to use the land for a school, provided structures on the premises are temporary.

I thus appeal to you to send a team to assess the conditions at the school and provide them with relief in the form of ablution facilities, temporary classrooms that comply with norms and standards, electricity and an admin unit and kitchen facility that complies with health standards.

I look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Yours in education,
Jane Cowley (072 9035038)