

# **REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, SCIENCES AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES FOLLOWING THE OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE FROM 02 – 06 FEBRUARY 2026, DATED 24 MARCH 2026**

The Select Committee on Education, Sciences, and Creative Industries, having undertaken an oversight visit to the Limpopo Province, reports as follows:

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Select Committee on Education, Sciences, and Creative Industries conducted a five-day oversight visit to the Limpopo Province from 02 – 06 February 2026. The visit is part of parliament's oversight priority plan (OPP) on infrastructure development, with the purpose of monitoring the state of school, sports, arts, and culture infrastructure in the province. In addition to infrastructure, the committee also focused on the following categories:

- Impact of budget cuts in the education sector on the province.
- Status on school sanitation and eradication of pit latrines in the province.
- Status of provision of clean water and electricity to schools.
- Status of provision of information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure in schools.
- Challenges faced by schoolchildren without Birth certificates.
- State of Early Childhood Development (ECD).
- Status on the provision of the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP).
- Status on the provision of scholar transport.
- Status of safety and security in Schools.
- Status of criminality and extortion rings in schools.
- How the province is addressing underage pregnancy and statutory rape in schools.
- Learner and Educator Study Materials (LTSM), and
- Participation in Sports, Arts, and Culture in schools.

The oversight visit took place in three districts: five (5) schools in the Waterberg District, four (4) Schools in the Sekhukhune District (the fifth school, Mamadi Secondary School, could not be conducted due to time constraints), and five schools in the Capricorn District. Furthermore, the committee visited three sports facilities in Mokopane Local Municipality.

## **2. DELEGATION**

Members of the Select Committee on Education, Sciences, and Creative Industry: Hon. M. Feni – Chairperson (ANC); Hon. MF Mokwele – Whip (ANC); Hon. NS Du Plessis (DA); Hon. MP Sibande (ANC); Hon. JM Andriaanse (DA); Hon. DW Fienies (ANC); Hon. LP Mhlongo (MK); Hon. M Kennedy (EFF)

Support Staff: Mr Andisa Kula (Stand-in Committee Secretary); Dr Solomon Mthombeni (Committee Content Advisor); Mr Lindi Mahlasela (Researcher); Ms Nomntu Nevese (Committee Assistant).

## **3. VISIT TO THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - MONDAY, 02 FEBRUARY 2026 – OOS LAERSKOOL – POLOKWANE**

The Delegation began its oversight with a visit to the Provincial Education Department to receive an overview of the state of education in the province from the Department's leadership.

The Acting Chairperson opened the meeting with introductions. The MEC of Education opened the meeting by providing an overview of the Department's work.

### **3.1. Opening by the MEC of Education**

In her brief opening remarks, the MEC of the Education Department, Ms Mavhungu Maureen Lerule-Ramakhanya, welcomed the delegation to the province and appreciated that Limpopo had been chosen for the oversight visit. The MEC reported that the province was hit by floods, causing major damage to school infrastructure. She further indicated that the department has requested that the president declare the province a national disaster. The MEC appreciated the good working relationship with stakeholders, including Parliament and the Auditor General.

### **3.2. Presentation by the Auditor General**

#### **3.2.1. Audit Report Summary**

- Audit Opinion: The Department received an unqualified audit opinion with findings, showing improvement from prior years due to efforts in resolving issues related to immovable tangible capital assets and work in progress.

### **3.2.2. Material irregularities status**

- The department failed to calculate and withhold employees' tax relating to leave gratuities paid to employees upon retirement for the period August 2009 to August 2015 tax periods. The department used an incorrect allowance code for leave gratuity payments that were not taxed. This ultimately resulted in the department paying SARS R21 819 882 in penalties. On 14 April 2025, the Financial Misconduct Board (FMB) recommended that the accounting officer approve a write-off of R16 500 000. On 23 April 2025, the accounting officer approved the write-off, noting that the debt had already been prescribed and was therefore irrecoverable.
- Asset not Safeguarded – Lemana College: Management did not ensure that the assets of the auditee were adequately safeguarded, as the work-in-progress on the Lemana College project was not protected/safeguarded, resulting in damages to already completed work, which will need to be redone. The matter constitutes non-compliance with section 38(1)(d) of the PFMA and resulted in a material Irregularity of R3.4 million. Matter will be followed during the 2025-26 audit.

### **3.2.3. Compliance Findings**

- The Department incurred R414 million in irregular expenditure in 2024-25. The main contributor was the National School Nutrition Award, for which R292 million was allocated. Yet, there was an inconsistent evaluation of winning and losing bidders, functional differences, and unfair disqualification of suppliers based on experience verification.

### ***Programme 6 – Infrastructure Development***

- The dire state of infrastructure in some public schools in the province undermines the constitutional right to education, depriving students of safe, conducive learning environments essential for effective teaching and learning. We visited the following schools (examples) and noted the following during the winter season:
  - Mahlolwaneng Primary School – some learners receive education in classrooms that lack basic structural elements such as windows, roofs, and doors.
  - Mahwetse Secondary School – carports are being used as classrooms.
  - Shigalo Primary School - certain learners, particularly those in grade 7, are receiving their education in a shack due to a lack of appropriate classrooms.

### ***National School Nutrition Programme and Scholar Transport***

- Implementing the NSNP and Learner Transport Services (LTS) demonstrated the department's commitment towards the wellness of learners; however, observed concerns were noted around the two critical areas:
  - On NSNP, we noted poor hygiene practices, poor stock management and weak oversight by SGBs.
  - The AGSA also noted persistent unsafe transport conditions due to inadequate maintenance of vehicles, and also noted the limited coverage in rural and remote areas.

### **3.3. Root Causes of Significant Findings in the Department**

- The monitoring and evaluation unit did not undertake a physical verification of all reported achievements before recording actual performance in the performance report.
- Lack of training sessions to inform project managers on the requirements of technical indicator description (TID), collating of evidence and maintaining the record of evidence.
- The filing system for contract management was not proper to ensure easy retrieval of appropriate supporting documentation.

### **3.4. Recommendations by the AGSA**

- Develop and implement an evaluation checklist mandating cross-referencing of SBD4 declarations with CSD.

- Centralise contract registers under Supply Chain Management (SCM) Unit, develop standard operating procedures for updates, and perform quarterly reconciliations.
- Appointed SCM officials to participate in all bid committees for the department's implementing agents.
- Internal Control Unit currently performs pre-audit of payment vouchers and bid committees on a risk-based basis to identify any issue of non-compliance with SCM prescripts. The Unit also serves as an observer in bid committees.

### **3.5. Committee recommendations in relation to AGSA report**

- a. To clear recurring audit findings on consequence management and reinforce accountability within the Department, the Accounting Officer must ensure full implementation of the corrective and preventative actions by 30 April 2026.
- b. The Department must clear all compliance findings, including irregular expenditure investigations as well as the abandoned project at Lemana College, by no later than 30 April 2026.
- c. A report on the status of addressing the AG's recommendations as listed above is to be presented before the Select Committee by no later than 30 April 2026.
- d. Infrastructure challenges at Mahlolwaneng Primary School, Mahwetse Secondary School, and Shigalo Primary School are to be addressed by no later than 30 September 2026. Interim mobile classrooms must be provided by 31 March 2026.

### **3.6. Presentation by the Limpopo Education Department**

- The province has a total of 1,853,844 learners enrolled in schools, with 1,763,823 in public schools and 90,021 in independent schools.
- The province has 3,854 schools, 140 circuits across 10 districts.
- The province has 56,616 educators, with 4,855 paid by the SGBs, 49,889 paid by the state, and 1,872 paid by R3 Subsidy.

#### **3.6.1. School Infrastructure**

- In terms of infrastructure backlogs, the Department reported a shortage of the following
  - 1310 classrooms
  - 2308 grade R classrooms
  - 150 schools without water infrastructure
  - Two schools without an electricity infrastructure
  - 347 schools requiring major repairs
  - 7187 Grade R toilets outstanding.
- Total estimated cost of infrastructure backlog is approximately R 4.1 billion
- In terms of a plan to address the infrastructure backlogs, the classroom gaps are to be addressed over five years until 2030/31. The other timelines for addressing the backlogs are as follows:
  - Grade R classroom and toilet backlog is to be concluded within 10 financial years by 2036/37.
  - Water infrastructure backlog by 2027/28
  - Electricity infrastructure gap within the 2025/26 financial year.
  - Major repairs in schools by 2027/28

#### **3.6.2. Sanitation in schools**

- In terms of the eradication of pit latrines in schools, a total of 666 schools had pits demolished in the province.
- A total of 839 schools with Enviroloo toilets were cleaned.
- 99% of priority one schools (schools that had inappropriate toilets that needed demolition) have been completed, with four sanitation projects underway at these schools.

#### **3.6.3. Status of Bullying in Schools.**

- The Department reported 1816 incidents of bullying across the province in the past financial year.
- The Department is working with stakeholders, including the SAPS, Lovelife, and the Department of Social Development, to spread awareness against bullying.

#### **3.6.4. State of Early Childhood Development (ECD) education**

- There are around 3103 registered ECD centres funded by the Department in the province, ensuring that they have the resources to operate efficiently.
- The Department is currently funding 142,524 children out of 181,867 enrolled. Funding per learner per day is R24.
- The department was allocated a budget of R40 million for indoor and outdoor resources for Grade R, which is allocated to schools.

#### **3.6.5. Status on the provision of NSNP**

- In terms of learners benefitting from the NSNP programme, 993,014 are in primary school, 684,002 are in secondary school, and 8999 are in special schools.
- A stipend is paid to 2190 food handlers throughout the province.
- Food is procured at a provincial level.
- Service providers are appointed on a 36-month contract.
- The challenges around NSNP remain the late delivery of food by service providers and the lack of proper storage facilities and preparation centres at schools.

#### **3.6.6. Status of scholar transport**

- The Department reported that a total of 75,861 learners in 566 schools benefit from the learner transport system.
- The department has purchased 40 buses for long-distance trips and will be managed centrally.
- The department has also procured 10 x 22-seater buses that will be delivered by the end of February 2026.
- There will be an additional 15 x 22-seater and 5 x 65-seater buses that will be procured in 2026/27 and 2027/28 financial years.
- Total expenditure to date is R136,7 million.
- The challenges faced with service providers were the abandonment of what they referred to as unviable routes and the use of unroadworthy vehicles.

#### **3.6.7. Challenges of schoolchildren without birth certificates**

- The Department reported 1,529 undocumented learners who were classified as asylum seekers, 18,954 who were immigrants, and 51,467 who were South Africans, bringing the total to 71,950 undocumented learners.
- The department is working together with the Department of Home Affairs to get learners documented.

#### **3.6.8. Status of filling of funded posts and Educator Learner Ratio**

- The Department has 51,352 funded posts as of 2026, with 50,527 filled, 825 vacancies (1.6% vacancy rate)
- In terms of special needs schools, the department has 737 funded posts as of 2026, with 676 filled, and 61 vacancies (8.3% vacancy rate).
- The department has advertised all vacant promotion posts on 01 February 2026.
- Average learner-to-Educator ratio across schools in the province is at 33.87:1

#### **3.6.9. Incidences of underage and statutory rape in schools**

- In 2025/26, the province experiences 9 incidents of rape and 16 incidents of sexual assaults. The 9 incidents of rape were from an educator to learners. Eight of the Educators have since been dismissed, and one is still undergoing a disciplinary hearing.
- A total of 333 learners across the province were reported as being pregnant. They are being referred to the Department of Health and the Department of Social Development to receive the necessary services. They are welcomed back to school in the post-natal period.

#### **3.7. Deliberations by the members of the Select Committee on the presentation of the Limpopo Education Department and the office of the Auditor General**

- The committee acknowledged the presentations of the Department and raised the following concerns:
  - Members raised concerns over increasing irregular expenditure and a reduction in incidents of consequence management.

- The involvement of circuit managers in the monitoring and evaluation of school infrastructure.
- How long does it take for a school to be built on average?
- The members showed concern over children being taught in classrooms without rooms.
- What is the prioritisation of schools in terms of infrastructure dilapidation?
- How often does the district visit schools given the state of dilapidation?
- The investigation progress at Lemona College?
- Have the investigations into irregular expenditure been concluded?
- The discrepancies between what's reported and the situation on the ground. How often are projects visited? What penalties are applied when projects are not completed?
- The state of infrastructure in the schools in the province is appalling, especially the pit latrines.
- What's the consequence of the management of the R119 million in IE?
- The department failed to spend on NSNP and Maths and Science grants in 2024/25. How will the underspending be corrected?
- What is the department going to do to address the issue of the schools identified by the AG with no roofs?
- Members enquired about the scholar transport. How often is the transport used by learners monitored?
- The members acknowledged that rural provinces receive less allocation for school infrastructure compared to Gauteng.

### **3.8. Overall Recommendations**

#### **3.8.1. Short-term recommendations (< one year)**

- The Limpopo Education Department (LED) is to address and complete its Electricity infrastructure backlog by no later than 31 March 2026, as this was a self-set deadline. The status update must be sent to the Select Committee secretariat by no later than 30 April 2026.
- The Department is to ensure that all unsafe pit latrines in all schools in the province are demolished and the sites are rehabilitated by no later than 30 January 2027. A status update on the progress of this recommendation will be presented at the committee's next follow-up meeting with the department.
- The Department is provided with a three-month timeframe to implement disciplinary action against the 1816 reported school bullying incidents that occurred in the 2024-25 financial year. A status update on the disciplinary action taken against those implicated must be submitted to the Select Committee by no later than 30 June 2026.
- The Department is to work with the Department of Home Affairs to ensure that at least 50% of 71,950 undocumented learners are documented by no later than 30 June 2026. A status report must be submitted at the next follow-up meeting with the Select Committee.
- The Department is to ensure that all 825 vacant funded posts are filled by no later than 31 May 2026. Furthermore, the Department is to ensure that 61 vacant funded posts at special needs schools are filled by no later than 31 May 2026. A status report must be submitted at the next follow-up meeting with the Select Committee.
- The Department is to report back to the Select Committees on the criminal proceedings of the nine educators accused of raping learners by no later than 31 May 2026. A status report must be submitted to the committee secretariat.
- The Department is to urgently appoint/deploy health and safety officers to schools within the province to monitor the cleanliness of ablution and kitchen facilities. A report on the appointment of these practitioners by circuit, as well as school health, safety, and hygiene compliance reports, must be submitted to the committee secretariat no later than 30 June 2026.

#### **3.8.2. Long-term recommendations (>one year)**

- The Limpopo Education Department (LED) is to address and complete its Grade R classroom as well as the toilets infrastructure backlog by no later than 31 March 2037, as this was a self-set deadline. However, the Select Committee expects that at least 10% of this infrastructure backlog must be addressed by 31 March 2027. The status update on the 10% achievement must be presented to the Select Committee at its one-year follow-up meeting with the department in February 2027.

- The Limpopo Education Department (LED) is to address and complete its Water infrastructure backlog by no later than 31 March 2028, as this was a self-set deadline. The status update must be sent to the Select Committee secretariat by no later than 30 April 2026. However, the Select Committee expects that at least 50% of this infrastructure backlog must be addressed by 31 March 2027. The status update on the 50% achievement must be presented to the Select Committee at its one-year follow-up meeting with the department in February 2027.
- The Limpopo Education Department (LED) is to address and complete its Major infrastructure repairs in schools by no later than 31 March 2028, as this was a self-set deadline. The status update on the 50% achievement must be presented to the Select Committee at its one-year follow-up meeting with the department in February 2027.
- In terms of scholar transport, the department is to ensure that an additional 15 x 22-seater and 5 x 65-seater buses are purchased over the next two financial years, as this was their self-set target. A status update on the procurement of additional buses for scholar transport must be submitted to the Select Committee by no later than 31 March 2027.

#### **4. SITE VISITS - MONDAY, 02 FEBRUARY 2026**

##### **4.1. Site 1 – Gwenane High School**

###### **4.1.1. Presentation and site observation**

- The school is classified as a quintile two school.
- The window frames have rusted, and the windows crack frequently.
- The school was established in 1993.
- The school offers the following streams in FET: Commercial, Sciences, and the General stream.
- The school has a total of 1221 learners, consisting of 20 classes from Grades 8 to 12.
- Post Establishment: School has 34 posts, one principal, two deputy principals, Four Heads of departments, and 27 Educators. There are two vacancies for Educators. The school has no admin staff.
- Matric pass rate in 2025 was 96.9%
- Ablution facilities are available and in good condition
- Access to Clean Water - A borehole is available with two water tanks installed in 2025 and provides clean water.
- Electricity - The school buys and receives electricity directly from Eskom.
- Sports and Recreation – The school has a sports ground where learners participate in football, netball, athletics, and Softball.
- The SGB holds frequent meetings
- ICT – School has whiteboards, Laptops, and Tablets for research, and Wi-Fi Access.

###### **4.1.2. Site Challenges**

- The school does not have a vegetable garden.
- Eskom charges business tariffs for electricity at the school, making it unaffordable.

###### **4.1.3. Deliberations**

Upon receiving the presentation from the school, the following concerns were noted and discussed:

- Concerns were raised over the school not having a vegetable garden.
- The large drop in class size between grades 10 and 11.
- Bullying incidents reported to the district and the response of the district.
- The Matric class of 2025 was half the number of learners that started grade 8, raising concerns about what happened to the other half of the learners over the years.
- Access to scholar transport.
- Frequency of circuit managers' visits to the school.
- The state of burglary and vandalism at the school.
- Number of meals the learners receive daily.
- Response by the school to the learner drop-out rate at the school.
- The quintile classification of the school.
- What is the function of the maintenance team, as there are signs of neglect in minor areas of infrastructure (i.e., broken plugs and classroom windows) that need to be addressed urgently.

#### **4.1.4. Responses**

- The school is a quintile two, which is a no-fee-paying school.
- The school is overcrowded because it's semi-urban, especially since many learners cannot secure space in town schools, which are their first preference.
- The school does not have scholar transport because it admits local learners.
- The circuit manager visits schools in the area weekly.
- There are high rates of burglary at school.
- The district department indicated that it has placed an order for mobile classrooms that will be delivered before March 2026.
- In terms of dropping out, many of the learners, especially the condoned learners, do not qualify for streams from grade 10 as they struggle with subjects. The circuit indicated that they are working hard to improve results in grade 9 to increase throughput.
- The district indicated that Eskom is billing the school as businesses (business rates), which makes it unaffordable to the schools in the district. The district Director requested assistance from Parliament to intervene in this regard. The Acting Chairperson indicated that the committee would work with the department to address the matter with Eskom. However, the provincial department indicated that it would address the matter.
- The provincial Department indicated that they are also engaging with Eskom on the matter. They requested until the end of March 2026 to resolve the matter with Eskom.
- Although a mobile classroom is being provided, a long-term plan for permanent structures must be implemented.

#### **4.1.5. Recommendations**

- The department is to address the problem of Eskom overcharging the school for electricity and ensure that the school is not billed as a business by no later than 31 March 2026.
- The school is to establish a vegetable garden with effect from 01 April 2026.
- The department is to fill the two Educator vacancies by no later than 30 April 2026.
- Status update report on all the above recommendations is to be submitted to the Select Committee Secretariat by no later than 30 June 2026.

### **4.2. Site 2 – Kgabetli Primary School**

#### **4.2.1. Presentation and site observation**

- The current learner enrolment at the school is 548.
- The post establishment is as follows: 16 Educators, two practitioners, five support staff, and three National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) helpers.
- The school has a total of 12 classes between Grade R and Grade seven.
- The school has two boreholes and two water tanks to provide clean water.
- The school buys electricity directly from Eskom.
- The school admits learners without birth certificates.
- Bullying incidents are minimal at school.
- The school has a security alarm, and visitors are controlled from the gate.
- Scholar Transport – Learners use private scholar transport.

#### **4.2.2. Site Challenges**

- The school has new ablution facilities, but the old pit latrines are still in use and have not yet been demolished.
- ICT – The school indicated it has whiteboards in all classrooms, but poor Wi-Fi, and a lack of overhead projectors.
- NSNP = the school still needs a kitchen. Learners receive daily meals.
- Overcrowding of the Grade 7 class (78 learners).
- Eskom charges business tariffs for electricity at the school, making it unaffordable.
- Some of the classrooms at the school are not conducive to teaching and learning.

#### **4.2.3. Deliberations**

The committee acknowledged the presentation by the school and raised the following questions and concerns:

- Lack of food storage facilities at the school.

- Overcrowding of the Grade Seven classroom of 78 learners.
- The poor state of sports facilities and children's play park. Are there alternative sports facilities where children participate?
- The poor state of the vegetable garden at the school.
- How often does the circuit manager visit the school?
- Number of meals learners receive daily.
- Reasons for 16% fail rate in Grade 5.
- Why is the school not looking after its sports facilities, as reflected in the multicourt donated by the National Lotteries Commission (NLC), which has grown weeds?

#### **4.2.4. Responses**

- The circuit manager highlighted that the school does have a garden, but it's still early in the year. However, the committee members rejected this.
- The Department acknowledged that the overcrowding is indeed a problem at the school.
- The provincial department indicated an interest in assisting the school with the Mobile classroom before the end of March 2026.
- The province also indicated that it would start with planning for the school building Kitchen. But this will be a multi-year approach.
- Eskom has been engaged to assist with the overcharging of the school in terms of post-paid electricity. The Department indicated that the matter should be addressed by no later than 3 March 2026.
- In response to the provision of the nutrition centre, Palisade fence, and tiling in one classroom, the School has been included in the infrastructure plan for the provision of additional infrastructure.

#### **4.2.5. Recommendations**

- The department is to ensure that the school demolishes the old pit latrine toilets and rehabilitates the area by no later than 31 May 2026.
- The department is to ensure that the school has access to reliable WI-FI connectivity as well as adequate overhead projectors by no later than 30 April 2026.
- The Department is to ensure that the school has a kitchen within the 2026/27 financial year. This must be concluded by no later than 31 March 2027.
- The Department is to urgently intervene to reduce overcrowding of the Grade 7 class of 78 learners. The intervention must be concluded by no later than January 2027, before the new intake for the 2027 academic year.
- The Department is to conclude the problem of Eskom charging business tariffs to the school by no later than 31 March 2026.
- The Department is to deliver a mobile classroom to the school by no later than 31 March 2026.
- The school is to establish a vegetable garden with effect from 01 April 2026.
- The school is to immediately clean up and maintain its sports facilities and combination court to allow for learners to participate in sports activities by no later than 31 March 2026.
- The Department is to assist the school in refurbishing the play area for the Grade R learners by no later than 30 June 2026.
- Status update report on all the above recommendations is to be submitted to the Select Committee Secretariat by no later than 30 June 2026.

### **4.3. Site 3 – Lebone Special School**

#### **4.3.1. Presentation and site observation**

- The school was registered in 2012 with the Limpopo Department of Education.
- The school accommodates learners from the Mogalakwena municipality and the district.
- The school provides specialized Education to learners with intellectual disabilities.
- Total enrollment at the school is 150 learners, 85 Boys and 65 Girls.
- The school offers two curriculum streams in line with the Department of Basic Education: The Learners with severe to profound intellectual disabilities (LSPID) and the Differentiated Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (DCAPS).
- In addition, the school offers skills such as Art and Crafts, Hospitality, Gardening and Sewing.

- The school has a staff component of 24 officials, including 11 educators, one administrator, a teacher aide, a professional nurse, a social worker, an occupational therapist, a general worker, a driver, two cleaners, and food aides.
- The school offers sport and recreation and has learners who participated in the SASA winter games.

#### **4.3.2. Site Challenges**

- The school is not disability friendly to the learners in terms of accommodations. There are no handrails for learners in wheelchairs, nor are the ablution facilities accessible to people with disabilities. However, the Department reported that the school facilities are being used as a temporary measure while it builds a new special school with all supporting infrastructure.
- The school only has one 65-seater bus allocated for scholar transport, which may be unreliable at times due to the absence of the driver.

#### **4.3.3. Committee observations**

The committee acknowledged the school's presentation and raised the following comments and concerns:

- Reasons behind the closure of the previous school.
- How much does the school spend on its electricity monthly?
- Concerns were raised that the school only has one 65-seater bus, which is not enough, as there's no backup transport for the learners should the bus experience challenges.
- While the school is in the process of filling the driver post, how are learners currently being transported at the school?
- How many learners are using wheelchairs in the school, and how are they navigating without supporting infrastructure?
- Concerns were raised that the Department moved learners living with disabilities to a school that is not built to support such learners.
- Is the school receiving any support from the Department of Social Development and the Department of Women, Youth, and Persons living with disabilities?
- What is the Department of Department doing to create awareness in removing the stigma of children living with disabilities in the communities?

#### **4.3.4. Responses**

- The school pays R2500 post-paid electricity monthly.
- The school does not get support from other departments.
- The school is the only school of its kind in the entire district.
- There was never a school in the district before; the move was because of the old temporary structure in which the school was located. The circuit manager indicated that they are building a new special school at the old location.
- Before the end of March 2026, the Department will bring the mobile flushing toilets that are user-friendly for learners living with special needs.
- The school will be provided with additional toilet seats. Ramps and walkways will also be corrected to be more inclusive by the end of March 2026.
- The new schools planning and designs will be completed by March 2026. By June 2026, the Department will have concluded the appointment of a contractor. The building of the new school will begin in July 2026.

#### **4.3.5. Recommendations**

- The committee suggested that the Department assist the school with another 65-seater bus to support scholar transport. This must be concluded in the 2026/27 financial year, with the deadline being 31 March 2027.
- The Department is to fill the scholar transport driver position at the school by no later than 31 March 2026.
- The Department is to install handrails, ramps and walkways and other assistive devices to ensure that the school is disability friendly by no later than 31 March 2026. This must be accompanied by an assessment report confirming that the school is disability friendly.
- The Department is to provide the school with disability friendly mobile flushing toilets by no later than 31 March 2026.
- The construction of the new school must begin by July 2026, as committed by the Department during the engagement with the committee at the school.

- Status update report on all the above recommendations is to be submitted to the Select Committee Secretariat by no later than 30 June 2026.

#### **4.4. Site 4 – Cornroux Primary School**

##### **4.4.1. Presentation**

- The school is classified as a quintile two school.
- The school has 15 teaching staff and 3 support staff.
- The school has 634 learners as of 2026.
- Water is purchased from private water tankers. Due to the area's dryness, boreholes cannot produce water.
- The school has 17 classrooms plus three mobile classrooms.
- The school has prepaid electricity from Eskom plus a backup generator.
- The school has an NSNP Kitchen.
- The school's library is still under construction.
- Teacher learner ratio 1:40, except for Grade R, which is overcrowded. There's currently an advert for vacancies for Deputy Principal and one HOD. The school would have filled the posts by March 2026.
- The learners receive two meals daily.
- The school has a safety and security committee that is functional.
- The school only had one incident of teenage pregnancy in 2023.

##### **4.4.1. Site Challenges**

- There's no admin block.
- The school has no science laboratory.
- The school has 11 undocumented learners, but they are all South Africans.
- The school has no vegetable garden

##### **4.4.2. Committee Observations**

- The gas in the kitchen is not installed according to regulations, and the gas tank should be outside.
- There are inadequate play facilities in the school's playground, and this can hamper their development.
- Does the school have any pre-Grade R classes, or are there any in the area?
- Are there any sports and recreation activities in the school?
- Concerns were raised about the dumping site on the school premises.
- There were concerns over the overcrowding in the Grade R class, where there were approximately 100 learners in one classroom.
- The committee requested information on the frequency of the circuit manager's visits to the school.
- The ablution facilities were not in good condition in terms of hygiene.
- How long will the school have mobile classrooms?
- Concerns were raised that the school yard is not well looked after.
- The committee requested information as to whether the lack of access to water was isolated to the school, or is it a community supply issue?
- The committee requested that a rape case be opened, and the case number must be submitted to the committee.
- How long has the school had a library?

##### **4.4.3. Responses**

- The reason for the decline in learner admission at the school is due to emigration to urban areas.
- The school takes its learners to the nearby sports facilities as it does not have sports facilities of its own. However, it does not offer a variety of sporting codes due to a lack of facilities for diverse sports.
- There is no water reticulation in the village.
- The construction of the library started in 2023.
- The circuit manager visits the school once a month.

- The province indicated that it would look into the issue of the play area for Grade R learners at the school.
- The municipality is in the process of building bulk water services through JS Moroka Municipality. The municipality is to assist the school with water.
- Regarding the Grade R post vacant and two classes taught by one Grade R practitioner – The school has reported that an appointment of an additional Grade R educator has been concluded but is awaiting Circuit for finalisation.
- In terms of unclean ablution facilities, a service provider was appointed to clean the facilities at the school.
- In terms of lack of access to water at the school, the Department has written that the District Municipality is to provide water for the School.

#### **4.4.4. Recommendations**

- The Department is to urgently intervene in assisting the school to resolve the overcrowding of the Grade R class of 100 learners. This must be concluded by not later than 30 June 2026.
- The Department is to conclude filling the vacancies of the additional Grade R Educator, the HOD and the Deputy Principal posts by no later than 30 April 2026.
- The school is to work with the Department of Home Affairs in ensuring that the 11 South African undocumented learners are documented by no later than 31 March 2026.
- The school is to establish a new vegetable garden by no later than 01 April 2026.
- The Department is to conduct a follow-up with the District Municipality on the provision of water to the school by no later than 31 March 2026.
- The gas tank in the kitchen is to be immediately removed and installed outside accordingly.
- The Department is to assist the school in constructing a play area for the foundation phase learners by no later than 30 June 2026.
- The committee requested that a case of rape be immediately opened for the learner whose family member was allegedly raped at the school's knowledge. An update and case number must be submitted to the Select Committee Secretariat by no later than 30 June 2026.
- Status update report on all the above recommendations is to be submitted to the Select Committee Secretariat by no later than 30 June 2026.

### **4.5. Site 5 – Matatadibeng Primary School**

#### **4.5.1. Presentation and site observation**

- The school is classified as a quintile one school.
- The school is using a kitchen that was donated by the private sector.
- The school qualifies for 16 Educators.
- The school has only 3 undocumented learners.
- School has had no incidences of teenage pregnancy.

#### **4.5.2. Site challenges**

- The school is currently experiencing an inconsistent water supply as it must buy its own water.
- The school has no security measures, such as security personnel or alarm systems.
- Prefab structures need attention.
- Classroom shortages.

#### **4.5.3. Committees' Observations**

- The committee was concerned about the poor state of ablution facilities, including the temporary mobile toilets, which were deemed unsafe for the learners. The department was asked to prepare a report within 7 working days outlining how they plan to address the issue with the ablution facilities. The chairperson called for the toilets to be closed and for mobile toilets to be delivered to the school in the interim.
- Concerns were raised about gas tanks inside the kitchen, which pose a significant danger to the school.
- The committee called for the fixing of broken windows at the school.
- The committee requested information on whether the department or the school buys its own water. It was noted that the school cannot purchase water using funds dedicated to NSNP.

- The committee indicated that there needs to be separate toilets between Grade R and the rest of the learners in the school.
- The school must cut the grass to allow the children to play in the field.
- The committee raised concerns that the department officials were also surprised by the condition of the school, reflecting a lack of visitation to schools.
- The local traditional leader also raised concerns over the lack of scholar transport at the school.
- The committee raised concerns over a classroom being used as a storage facility for old books, yet the school has a shortage of classrooms.
- The committee asked the following questions for clarity:
  - Does the school have sports facilities?
  - How many meals do the learners receive daily?
  - What is the reason behind the drop in learner enrollment?
  - What is the reason the municipality is not delivering water to the school?
  - What is the learner-to-teacher ratio in grade R?
  - Are all the teachers' posts at the school filled?
  - Does the school experience load reduction?
  - Does the school experience vandalism?
  - When did the circuit manager last visit the school? Members requested reports and evidence of the circuit managers' visit to the school.
  - Is there any ICT infrastructure in the school?
- A school turnaround report must be submitted within the next 7 working days.

#### **4.5.4. Responses**

- The department acknowledged the observations made by the committee. It indicated that they would appoint a contractor to repair the school's infrastructure and that additional mobile toilets would be delivered to the school by Friday, 06 February 2026.
- The circuit manager indicated that she didn't visit the school in the last quarter.
- The Department was not allowed to provide further verbal responses and was requested to submit a school turnaround report within 7 working days.
- On the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2026, the Department reported back to the committee as follows:
- In response to the state of ablution facilities, the toilets have since been ordered and are due for delivery on Monday, the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026. The committee's proposed date could not be met. The SGB is busy replacing the toilets (windows and seats).
- In terms of the poor state of mobile classrooms, the Department would ensure that 4 mobile windows and aircons are fixed. The SGB has since repaired all mobile class windows.
- In response to the gas cylinders being inside the kitchen, the School was instructed to remove the gas stove from the mobile kitchen and construct the gas cage outside the kitchen. District and Circuit are busy assisting the school with compliance. The gas stove and Cage will be constructed by the end of February 2026.
- In response to the lack of classrooms and ablution facilities for Grade R learners, a project to provide the school with additional infrastructure is currently underway. The appointment of a contractor is planned for the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2026.
- In response to the lack of a consistent water supply at the school, The School has bought a new water pump and installed it; now the school has a water supply from the borehole.
- In response to Old unused textbooks stored in the classroom and taking up space for the learners, The School is working together with the circuit to get the books recycled. The recycling service provider has already been engaged, and the department is awaiting collection.

#### **4.5.5. Recommendations**

- The school is to ensure that all the undocumented learners are documented by no later than 30 April 2026.
- The committee status update progress of deliverables reported by the Department on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2026, as listed in 4.5.4, is to be submitted to the committee secretariat by no later than 30 June 2026.

### **4.6. Site 6 – Mahlakodishe Secondary School**

#### **4.6.1. Presentation and site observation**

- The school is a quintile one school
- The total number of learners is 480.
- The school has 15 staff members, of whom 11 are educators.
- The school has electricity
- The Grade 12 pass rate is at 81.4% as of 2025.
- The school uses English as a medium of instruction
- The school does experience cases of bullying and has had 2 incidents since the beginning of the year.
- Two learners fell pregnant during the current financial year.
- The school has no learner transport, and their parents provide transport for those who have it.
- The school accommodates learners with learning barriers, where some of its teachers are trained in inclusive education.

#### **4.6.2. Site Challenges**

- The school had to terminate the previous contractor over poor workmanship in the renovation of classrooms.
- The library and the laboratory were negatively affected by the storm, in which the roof collapsed.
- The classrooms have challenges with furniture, floors, and ceilings.
- The school's ablution facilities are in a very bad state.

#### **4.6.3. Committee observations**

- The chairperson indicated that the ablution facilities at the school should be closed, given the poor state they are in.
- Concerns were raised that the school does not have a gas tank in its kitchen and only uses firewood.
- The committee requested that the Department consider providing the school with a social worker, as it offers inclusive education.
- When was the science laboratory built? There were concerns that the laboratory had not been equipped since it was built.
- Concerns were raised over the presence of an unsafe dumping area on the school premises.
- Concerns were raised over the overcrowding of 75 learners in a grade 9 class.
- The committee enquired about the missing air conditioners in classrooms.
- The committee wanted to know whether the dismissed contractors were blacklisted. If so, were they blacklisted in their personal capacity so they are not awarded future government contracts under a different company name?
- Does the school have cleaners?
- How does the school perform in the subjects of Maths and Science?

#### **4.6.4. Responses**

- The contractor scheduled to renovate the school was terminated due to poor performance, and the department had to appoint a new contractor. The department is submitting a status report to the committee within 7 working days.
- The principal indicated that the mobile classroom air conditioners were removed and stored away for safety purposes to avoid vandalism. She indicated that they will be reinstalled.
- The laboratory was built in 2004.
- The reason for overcrowding was that the school lost two educators, and there won't be a replacement. These were educators who taught commerce, and the school no longer offers commerce subjects.
- The school has no cleaners.
- The school RCL has been elected.
- The school's performance in maths and science, the pass rate for Matric in science was 82% and for maths was 47%.
- There have been attempts at vandalism at the school.
- In terms of inclusive education, there are some referrals that the school does where it does not have the expertise.
- The school does not have connectivity, but has put aside funds to cater for that in the current financial year.

\*The other responses are to be submitted by the circuit within 7 working days. This included the contract details of the school renovation project.

#### **4.6.5. Recommendations**

- The Department is yet to ensure that the previous contractor appointed for the school project is blacklisted as an individual over poor workmanship. This process must be undertaken by no later than 31 March 2026.
- The Department is to ensure that the school is provided with cleaners via the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) by no later than 31 March 2026.
- The Department is to ensure that the school has Wi-Fi connectivity by no later than 30 June 2026.
- The Department is to urgently fix the school's library and the laboratory roofs, which suffered storm damage. This must be undertaken by no later than 30 June 2026.
- The Department is to assess the school's furniture needs and procure the required furniture by no later than 30 June 2026.
- The Department is to urgently provide temporary mobile toilets to the school while the current poor state of ablution facilities is fixed. This should be concluded by no later than 30 April 2026. The school's ablution facilities are in very poor condition.
- The Department is to provide the school with a gas tank to replace its use of firewood in its NSNP kitchen by no later than 31 March 2026.
- The Department is to ensure that the school has full access to a social worker, given that it offers inclusive education.
- The Department is to assist the school in equipping the science laboratory. This must be concluded by no later than 30 June 2026.
- The Department is to urgently intervene in the overcrowding of the Grade 9 class size if 75 learners by no later than 30 June 2026.
- The school is to ensure that air conditioning is immediately reinstalled in mobile classrooms to allow for a conducive environment for teaching and learning.
- Status update report on all the above recommendations is to be submitted to the Select Committee Secretariat by no later than 30 June 2026.

#### **4.7. Site 7 – Naledi ya Meso Secondary School**

##### **4.7.1. Presentation and site observation**

- The school is classified as a quintile one school.
- The school was initially built by the community.
- The school has 5 teaching staff
- The school has 136 learners and only 9 matriculants as of 2026.
- 12 Enviro-loo toilets
- School has access to Learner and Teacher Study Materials (LTSM)
- NSNP = Learners receive daily meals.
- The school offers Inclusive Education

##### **4.7.2. Site Challenges**

- Shortage of classrooms at the school
- The school has been performing below 60% to date
- The school achieved a 0% matric pass rate in 2025.
- High rate of Teenage Pregnancy = 7 learners pregnant in 2025. In 2026, there are already 4 pregnant learners in grade 10.

#### **The Auditor General of South Africa provided the following information regarding the school renovation project:**

- The department appointed the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (DPWRI) as the implementing and principal agent for a construction project. Zerbacraft (PTY) LTD JV Lance Management Services was appointed as the contractor on 13 November 2020, with a tendered amount of R26 895 479.
- The project commenced on 5 February 2021, with an initial planned completion date of 5 August 2022, based on an 18-month contract duration. However, the practical completion date was revised to 23 November 2022.
- The contractor, Zerbacraft (PTY) LTD JV Lance Management Services, was terminated on 31 January 2023 due to poor performance. The total amount paid to the contractor was R10 021 454 (inclusive of VAT), as per the final account payment dated 27 January 2025.

- A replacement contractor, P.A. Letsoalo Construction Enterprise, was appointed on 30 May 2024 for R19 983 740 (including VAT). The site was handed over on 9 September 2024, with the completion date of 9 September 2025.
- The scope of work for Naledi Ya Meso Secondary School included the demolition of the admin block, a three-classroom block, a two-classroom block, and a kitchen.
- The renovation component involves three classrooms and 16 Enviro Loo toilets. The construction phase comprised an admin block, a nutrition centre, a library and computer centre, two three-classroom blocks, six waterborne toilets, a guardhouse, and fencing. Additional works included paving a 200-square-meter assembly area; completing a borehole by checking the water level and installing a 0.75 kW submersible pump; upgrading the transformer and rewiring the electrical system; building a new septic tank; and installing a new stormwater drainage system.
- The Key findings on the project were as follows:
  - Increased project cost due to the replacement contract
  - The Department could incur a possible loss of R3 109 716 (including VAT) due to price increases and duplicate services emanating from the replacement contract. As management did not withhold retention moneys from the terminated contractor and/or did not provide proof of the enforcement of construction guarantee recoupments, the Department is likely to incur a loss of R3 109 716 at the finalisation of the project.
  - Non-recoupment of costs and debts from the terminated contractor. The department may incur fruitless and wasteful expenditure of R50 330 (excluding VAT) if previously paid costs and amounts owing are not recouped from the terminated contractor.
  - Prolonged project delays: With an initial planned completion date of 5 August 2022, the project would have been delayed by more than three years if the replacement contractor's completion date of 9 September 2025 were met. According to the latest progress report dated 22 May 2025, the time lapse on the project was 67%, while the overall progress was 22%. The project experienced delays due to the availability of G5 material and the contractor's poor performance, as reflected in the progress report of 22 May 2025.
- Impact: The prolonged period before appointing a replacement contractor deprived the learners and staff of essential educational and nutritional infrastructure for nearly three years. This includes the absence of built facilities such as a library, nutrition centre, computer centre, and additional classrooms, which adversely affect access to quality education, digital literacy, and scientific learning.
- Had the project been completed as planned, the school could have accommodated additional learners from the community in the 2023 academic year. If the project stays on course, the school would only be able to receive additional learners three years later, in the 2026 academic year.
- During the site visit and enquiry with management, the following non-performing areas were identified as a result of the prolonged completion of the project:
  - Lack of Educational Environment and Safety, such as teaching staff are currently using one classroom as a staff room, lack of quarterly emergency and evacuation drills, poor learner performance in computer skills, the change from a commercial academic stream to a physical science and mathematics academic stream is not supported by the current facilities.
  - Shortage of water and sanitation facilities, requiring the school to buy water from water vendors.
  - Unsafe and unhygienic cooking areas/ kitchen, and use of an iron shack as food storage.
  - Root cause: Management failed to ensure effective project monitoring and contract management for both the terminated and the replacement contractor.
  - Management also failed to implement an audit action plan for the prior year's audit findings.
- Internal control and recommendations by the AGSA:
  - Recommendation: The possible recoupment of the additional contract costs of R3 109 716 (including VAT) from the terminated contractor should be investigated before the project is completed.
  - Response: Management disagreed, arguing that market price appreciation of material, duplication of services such as social facilitator, health and safety agent, community liaison officer, and project steering committee are unavoidable.

- This is not correct as management did not make use of mitigating measures, such as construction guarantees and/or retention deductions, which were not implemented.
- Recoupment of costs and debt from the terminated contractor. Recommendation: Put measures in place to ensure the final account reflects all project financials and that no stakeholders remain unpaid upon finalisation. Response: The department shall write to the IA to ensure adherence to the standard of practice and to recover the funds from the previous contractor.
- Prolonged project delays. Recommendation: Management should ensure the completion of construction works and finalise the handover by a revised and enforceable deadline, with defined milestones and regular progress monitoring. Response: Management agreed with the AGSA that the project must be monitored and completed.

#### **4.7.3. Committee observations**

The committee noted the presentation and raised the following concerns:

- Concerns were raised over the rate of teenage pregnancy at the school.
- Concerns were raised over the poor academic performance at the school since the appointment of the principal. Are parents involved at the school?
- Did the school have warning signs that all its learners were failing matric? If so, what was done to try to prevent this?
- What happened to the other learners, 100 students who started Grade 8 five years ago, given that the school had only 16 matriculants?
- There were concerns that the school had no fire extinguishers, which is a legal requirement.
- For how many students was the new building project designed? What is the state of the project?
- Where does the school get water if there are no boreholes?
- Where is the food being cooked in the absence of the kitchen?
- Why is the school principal not at the meeting?
- How many cases of bullying were registered?
- In terms of pregnant learners, are they coming back to school?
- There were concerns over the untidiness of the venue used for the meeting, and this was viewed as the character that the school portrays.
- When did the circuit manager last visit the school? The evidence must be provided.
- Concerns were raised about the poor upkeep of the school premises.

#### **4.7.4. Responses**

- In response to the poor academic performance at the school, the department visited the school with the Premier of the province to try and implement a turnaround plan for the school and the following findings were discovered:
  - There's a management and leadership crisis at the school.
  - The parents and the community were previously not supporting the school, but they have now committed to supporting the school.
  - The situation in the school was so bad that there were incidents of learners attacking educators.
  - There were extra winter classes, but the learners did not attend, and there was no support from the parents.
  - Because of poor academic performance, parents no longer want to bring their children to the school.
  -
- In response to the crisis, poor learner performance at the school, the following measures were taken;
  - The principal is undergoing the process of consequence management, hence non-availability during the committee's oversight visit.
  - The school was provided with 2 extra posts to address the situation of poor academic performance. The department is finalising the appointments of the educators.
  - The SGB will be meeting to address the issue of learners' discipline at the school.
  - The school now reports to the province on the status of improvement in the classrooms, as the HOD has now adopted the school.

- The local tribal authority has committed to supporting the school, and no learner should attend school outside of the village. The chief is also committed to visiting households where children are not attending school.
- In terms of the school renovations, the Department construction at the school is around 99%, and they are busy with the snag list. The Department, however, failed to disclose to the committee the delays and contractor challenges in completing the school renovations.

#### **4.7.5. Recommendations**

- Following the report of the AGSA on poor workmanship and delays in the completion of the school renovation project, the Department must submit a full report on the status of the renovation project. This must include implementing the AGSA recommendation, recovering R3 million from the terminated contractor, and setting timelines for the project's full completion by no later than 30 June 2026.
- The committee recommends that the school renovation projects be concluded by no later than 31 July 2026.
- The Department is to submit an updated report on the consequence management taken against the principal of the school following the dismal Matric performance and poor leadership reported at the school. This must be submitted by no later than 30 June 2026.
- The committee is to monitor the status of academic performance at the school in all grades throughout the 2026 academic year. The Department is to submit the midterm results for all grades at the school to the committee secretariat no later than 31 August 2026.
- Status update report on all the above recommendations is to be submitted to the Select Committee Secretariat by no later than 30 June 2026.

### **4.8. Site 8 – Biko Park Creche**

#### **4.8.1. Presentation**

- The creche has been in existence since 1994 to provide early childhood development programmes for children aged 0-5 years old.
- The centre was registered as a non-profit organisation in terms of the NPO Act no.71 of 1997.
- The Centre is registered with the Department of Education to ensure compliance with norms and standards.
- The centre has seven staff members.  
The centre has a total of 64 children, most of whom are between 4 and 5 years old.
- They request funding for infrastructure and learning materials.
- The centre includes learners living with special needs.
- The enterprise requires capacity building and support for ECD practitioners.
- The centre requires inclusive learning remedial classes for its learners living with special needs.

#### **4.8.2. Site challenges**

- The principal of the centre reported limited funding and a high reliance on donor support.
- Infrastructure constraints in terms of limited classrooms and sanitation.
- Limited learning materials.
- No electricity due to cable theft.
- The principal reported that ECD practitioners are underpaid for the work that they do.
- The government does not provide a budget for infrastructure.
- The other challenge is the stipend; there are always delays in receiving grants

#### **4.8.3. Committee Observations**

- The committee commended the Centre for all the awards that were achieved.
- In the 4-5 years class, there are 45 children in the classroom with one educator. This can be overwhelming, and the Department should assist the Centre with the overcrowding.
- The committee raised the issue of safety following cable theft within the Centre.
- There were concerns that the Department expects practitioners to have qualifications, yet they are not providing enough funding for the training of the practitioners.
- Are there any sports and physical development activities for the children?
- Is there any ICT training for children?

- There was a suggestion raised that a political party should not be used as a partner to the ECD Centre, as outlined under the Centre's achievements. It was indicated that the work of the state must be separated from that of a political party.

#### **4.8.4. Responses**

- In response to the lack of funding for the centre, the Department indicated that they would provide support to the centres, subject to budget availability. The Board members were also encouraged to raise funds and apply to the National Lotteries Commission.
- In response to the underpaid ECD practitioners, the centre receives a quarterly stipend that is shared among ECD practitioners at the Centre.
- In response to the Centre not having electricity, the MMC of community development committed to ensuring that the Director of Energy will attend to the frequent power cuts at the Centre at the municipality.
- On the issues of cable theft, which affects electricity, the MMC of community development committed to helping the Centre to be reconnected.
- The Department reported that it continues to assist and train practitioners to ensure that the province has qualified educators at the foundation phase.
- The Department is to ensure that as people acquire ECD qualifications, their remuneration will also align accordingly.

#### **4.8.5. Recommendations**

- The Department is to intervene and assist the Centre on the issue of overcrowding in the classroom of children aged 4 – 5 years.
- The Department is to conduct a follow-up with the municipality as to whether electricity at the Centre was restored by no later than 31 March 2026.
- The Department is to consider the possibility of capacity building of ECD practitioners at the centre and assist in ensuring that they are qualified for their roles.
- The department is to assist the centre with the requested learning materials for its learners by no later than 31 March 2026.
- The Department is to ensure that there is a dedicated social worker who visits the Centre monthly, as it accommodates learners living with special needs.
- The Centre is to apply for additional funding from the National Lotteries Commission
- Status update report on all the above recommendations is to be submitted to the Select Committee Secretariat by no later than 30 June 2026.

### **4.9. Site 9 – Millennium Combined School**

#### **4.9.1. Presentation and site observation**

- The school quintile was not mentioned.
- The school is both a primary and a high school.
- The school has 37 Educators, including one principal, two deputy principals, and four departmental heads.
- The school only has one Grade R class, where the learner-to-educator ratio in Grade R is 1:54 as of 2026.

#### **4.9.2. Site challenges**

- The school attained a 75% Matric Pass rate. The school highlighted that the language of instruction at the school may be a barrier to learning.
- The school highlighted that electricity is expensive for the school as it pays approximately R25 000 for electricity monthly.
- There are infrastructure challenges at the primary school level.
- The school has poor internet connectivity.
- The school's ablution facilities were not clean.
- The school reported high incidences of burglaries.
- The school infrastructure showed visible signs of neglect and decay. There was also a reported incident of a ceiling falling on top of a learner in a
- The school has no vegetable garden.

#### **4.9.3. Deliberations**

- The committee raised concerns over the poor state of the school infrastructure.
- There were concerns raised over the poor state of ablution facilities at the school, and the district was instructed to intervene.
- There were concerns over the non-existence of the vegetable garden at the school.
- There were concerns over the high levels of vandalism at the school. Further concerns were raised over the security fence not being firm enough to prevent burglaries at the school.
- There were concerns that the school principal did not communicate with the Department regarding the infrastructure challenges he was having at the school.
- Concerns were raised over the lack of safety in the mobile classrooms. The classrooms were placed on an unstable steel structure as a surface, yet they require a concrete foundation.
- There were concerns over the incidence of a ceiling falling on top of a learner, reflecting a poor state of infrastructure maintenance at the school.
- The committee wanted to understand the reasons behind the high costs of electricity at the school. Are there any plans to introduce alternative energy sources at the school (e.g. solar panels)
- The committee requested information on the functionality of the SGB and as to whether it holds frequent meetings.
- In terms of ICT, do educators have laptops? Is there ICT equipment for learners?
- Does the school have access to a social worker?

#### **4.9.4. Responses**

- In response to vandalism and security matters, the school reported that it has two security guards per shift, and they are not only supposed to be at the gate but should also do a walkabout around the school premises.
- In response to visitations by circuit managers to the school, Circuit managers are expected to visit the school at least once per quarter.
- On the functionality of the SGB, the circuit manager reported that the SGB is not functional, as there is a high turnover of members of the SGB, and there is a lot of resistance from the Educators at the school.
- On the issue of the school looking unmaintained, the mobile classrooms are also old and stand on an unstable foundation. The school will receive new mobile classrooms by the 31st of March 2026.
- On the issue of the toilets, which are in a bad state and require immediate attention, the school has been included in the infrastructure plan for major repairs. Construction will start on the 31st May 2026.
- On the issue of vandalism and burglaries at the school, the wall will be provided as part of the construction project. Construction will start on the 31st of May 2026.

#### **4.9.5. Recommendations**

- The district is to urgently intervene in terms of assisting the school in restoring the functionality and stability of the SGB. The Department is to submit a report on the district's intervention to the Secretariat of the Select Committee by no later than 31 May 2026.
- The district is to urgently investigate the reasons behind the poor matric pass rate of 75%, which is lower than the national average, at the school and implement measures to improve academic performance.
- The district is to immediately launch an investigation into the school's use of its maintenance budget, maintenance plans and upkeeping of the facilities, and revert to the Select Committee by no later than 30 June 2026.
- The Department is to evaluate the leadership of the school in terms of competence, its capability to run the school, cooperation with educators, and whether there is workforce stability within the school.
- The Department is to immediately assess and intervene on the infrastructure challenges at the primary school level.
- The school is to establish a vegetable garden by no later than 31 April 2026.
- The school is to be provided with new mobile classrooms as committed by the Department by no later than 31 May 2026.
- Major repairs to the school's ablution facilities, as well as the construction of the new wall, are to be started by no later than 31 May 2026, as committed by the Department.

- Status update report on all the above recommendations is to be submitted to the Select Committee Secretariat by no later than 30 June 2026.

#### **4.10. Site 10 – Radira Secondary School**

##### **4.10.1. Presentation**

- The school is classified as a quintile one school.
- The school was established in 1986, but has undergone renovations with new building infrastructure.
- The school has 441 learners.
- The 2025 Matric results show that the school attained 97.9%
- The school offers sports and recreation, as well as arts activities.
- The school has open-pit toilets.
- The school has erected new mobile classrooms after the storm damage.
- The school has a borehole and four water tanks.
- The school has 10 post-level-one educators and one principal.

##### **4.10.2. Site challenges**

- The school was damaged by heavy storms in 2024, and the palisade fence was also damaged. The contractor visited the school last week to assess the extent of the damage. The total cost of the school renovation project is approximately R1.5 million.
- The school has a block of four classrooms with a collapsed roof.
- The school does not have sports grounds or sports equipment.
- The school needs a science lab, computer centre, and admin block.

##### **4.10.3. Committee Observations**

- The committee was not impressed by the absence of the circuit manager, who was attending another workshop.
- The committee commended the school for the good performance of the matric class.
- The committee was concerned about the non-availability of the vegetable garden at the school.
- The committee called for the school to offer more sporting codes and asked whether the school has other activities, such as music lessons.
- The committee raised concern over the significant decrease in learner numbers between grades 11 and 12.
- After fixing the main building, the infrastructure will be enough for the school to eradicate the mobile classrooms.
- The committee called for the school to ensure the cleanliness of the learners' ablution facilities.
- The committee requested information on when the repair of the school roof will be completed.
- When will the school have access to a science and computer laboratory?
- The committee commended the parental and SGB involvement in the school.
- The committee also commended the school for its achievements in extramural activities, including drama.

##### **4.10.4. Responses**

- In terms of the provision of sports equipment, the district director indicated that it is the mandate of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to assist the school with sports equipment. However, most of their learners participate in cross-country, which does not require equipment.
- In response to the repairing of infrastructure from storm damage, the Director responsible for infrastructure indicated that the contractor will be at the school on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2026. The roof repair project will take four months and conclude on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2026.
- On the issue of the bathroom smell and cleanliness, the educators do have sessions with the learners on the matter, especially the boys, and they try their best to ensure the cleanliness of the bathrooms.

- In response to extracurricular activities offered at the school, the school does not yet offer extra music lessons as it does not have the expertise. Still, it will explore using community members with such expertise.
- The issue of the admin block and computer lab is part of their long-term plan for the school.
- On the issue of the toilets not being appropriately cleaned with an unpleasant smell, the Department is to explore chemicals that can be used to minimise the pungent odour, and clean them regularly.
- On the issue of The School in resuscitating the vegetable garden, the Department is to ensure that the school has a vegetable garden.

#### **4.10.5. Recommendations**

- The Department is to ensure that repairs of the school block, roof, and fencing resulting from the storm damage are concluded by no later than 31 May 2026.
- The school is to engage with the provincial Department of Sports, Arts and Culture to assist with sports equipment for the learners.
- The school is to establish a vegetable garden by no later than 01 April 2026.
- Status update report on all the above recommendations is to be submitted to the Select Committee Secretariat by no later than 30 June 2026.

### **4.11. Site 11 – Bodiroa Primary School**

#### **4.11.1. Presentation**

- The school has no ablution facilities for foundation phase learners.
- The school has no foundation phase infrastructure.
- The school had a total of 283 learners as of 2026.
- The school has mobile classrooms used for Grade R1, R1, R2, 4 and a Library.

#### **4.11.2. Site challenges**

- The school still has pit latrines.
- There's no admin block
- The school needs foundation phase infrastructure, ablution facilities, sports fields, and an admin block.

#### **4.11.3. Committee observations**

- The committee raised concern over the poor state of ablution facilities and the uncleaned mobile toilets, to a state where children are no longer using them.
- Concerns were raised over the poor state of the sports fields with overgrown weeds.
- There was also dissatisfaction with the non-existence of a vegetable garden.
- The committee wanted to know about the pass rate at the school, access to electricity, and the learner-to-teacher ratio.
- The committee also indicated that the temporary mobile toilets are not enough for all learners at the school.
- There were concerns that the toilets for learners in Grade R are too far from the classrooms and that they are not conducive to the use of the learners.
- There are a lot fewer girl children at the school than the boys (i.e. 70:30). Is there a reason for this?
- The school has no playground for the children as there are overgrown weeds.

#### **4.11.4. Responses**

- In response to the eradication of pit latrines, the Department indicated that the new ablution facilities will be completed by July 2026, as plans have been finalised.
- In response to the frequency of cleaning of mobile toilets, the district Department indicated that they only pay service providers after delivering and cleaning mobile toilets at least twice per week.
- In response to the current state of unclean and unusable mobile toilets, the district director indicated that the ablution facilities will be cleaned by the afternoon.
- The school will be provided with more mobile toilets by 30 April 2026.
- Concerning the uncleanliness of the school sports grounds, the Principal was directed to cut all the grass around the school. The SGB was directed to use the sports budget allocation to

purchase and construct sporting fields for Soccer, Netball, and Athletics, and to purchase Foundation playground equipment.

#### **4.11.5. Recommendations**

- The department is to ensure that unsafe pit latrines at the school are eradicated by no later than 30 April 2026, with the area being immediately rehabilitated afterwards.
- The department is to deploy health and safety practitioners to the school and its surroundings every week to ensure that the current mobile toilets are monitored for cleanliness and are not a health hazard to learners. Progress on the appointment/deployment of a health and safety officer must be concluded by no later than 31 March 2026.
- The department is to gently intervene in ensuring that the school has a foundation-level infrastructure for its Grade R learners. This includes Ablution facilities specifically for Grade R learners, located near the classrooms for safety. The intervention must be concluded by no later than 30 April 2026.
- The school is to establish a vegetable garden by no later than 01 April 2026.
- The school is to urgently clean its sports facilities and play areas using its maintenance budget.
- The circuit manager is to conduct monthly visits to the school to ensure that the measures above are implemented and report back to the Select Committee of the province.
- Status update report on all the above recommendations is to be submitted to the Select Committee Secretariat by no later than 30 June 2026.

### **4.12. Site 12 – Mohlakeng Combined School**

#### **4.12.1. Presentation**

- The school is classified as a quintile one school.
- The school attained a matric pass rate of 88.6% in 2025. Learners who were not successful are given a second chance to study at the school.
- The school has 8 classrooms plus 10 mobile classrooms.
- The school has four chemical toilets for its foundation phase learners.
- The school has a fully constituted and functional SGB.
- One mobile classroom is used as an SMT office, as the school does not have an admin block.
- The school produced the best learner in the district in Matric in 2024.
- The school offers various sporting codes as well as cultural activities, and introduced music in 2026.
- Developmental needs at the school: inadequate classrooms for the primary school, no laboratory, not enough toilets, no sports fields, no playgrounds for foundation phase learners, no admin block, network challenges, and not enough furniture for Grade 6 and 7 classrooms.
- The committee commended the school for offering chess as a sport.

#### **4.12.2. Site Challenges**

- The school does not have sufficient ablution facilities for its learners.
- The school has no classrooms for its primary school.
- The school has no science lab.
- The school has no sports facilities.
- The school has no playgrounds for its foundation phase learners
- The school has no admin block and uses one classroom instead.
- The school has no internet connection.
- The school has a shortage of classroom furniture.

#### **4.12.3. Deliberations**

- The committee commended the school for its good performance and facilities, as well as the commitment of the school leadership.
- The committee commended the school for reaching out to the five learners who were not successful in the NSC exams and ensuring that they return to the school.
- The committee supported the school's request for more ablution facilities.
- Concerns were raised over the decline in performance in the Grade 7 group.
- Given the limited connectivity at the school, how do learners cope with work that requires ICT infrastructure?

#### **4.12.4. Responses**

- In response to the lack of furniture at the school, the department will deliver the required furniture to the school by no later than 31 March 2026.
- In response to the lack of ablution facilities at the school, the Department committed to providing mobile toilets to the school in the interim.
- The committee indicated that further responses must be formulated by the district on how it will respond to the needs of the school.

#### **4.12.5. Recommendations**

- The school is to be provided with the necessary furniture and additional ablution facilities as requested by no later than 31 March 2026.
- The Department is to assist the school with access to Wi-Fi and ICT infrastructure by no later than 30 April 2026.

### **4.13. Site 14 – Makobe Inclusive Primary School**

#### **4.13.1. Presentation**

- The school was established in February 1990.
- The school is classified as a quintile two school.
- The school has 10 educators, one principal, eight educators, and one HOD.
- The school has 358 learners.
- In 2025, the school had a pass rate of 94.82%
- The school has 9 classrooms, and one of them is the principal's office, staffroom and storage area.
- The school has 17 enviro-loo toilets
- The teacher-to-learner ratio is 1:20.
- The school has a borehole with a 5000L tank.
- The school has proper fencing with gates locked.
- The school has no scholar transport. It does not qualify for scholar transport.
- The school had two feeder ECD centres for its Grade R in the community.

#### **4.13.2. Site Challenges**

- The classrooms have no ceiling.
- Because of the rocks at the school, the school is unable to construct good sporting facilities.
- There are no dedicated toilets for Grade R learners
- There are no ICT gadgets for learners in the school
- There is no ICT infrastructure at the school (i.e. whiteboards).
- There are 14 learners without documentation, of which four are foreign learners. The school has engaged social workers to help these learners.
- The school has no vegetable garden.
- The school has no Grade R classroom, no admin block, and poor landscaping because of large rocks at the school.

#### **4.13.3. Committee Observations**

- The committee was concerned about the lack of attendance by SGB members in the meeting while they were working in the school kitchen.
- There were concerns over the poor upkeep and overgrown weeds at the school's sports fields.
- There were concerns that the ablution facilities are not disability friendly, yet the school offers inclusive education.
- The committee was unhappy with the poor condition and cleanliness of the ablution facilities and also enquired how soon the Department can address the shortage of ablution facilities.
- The committee commended the school for the good academic results of learners.
- The committee requested that the Department ensure that the school has a safe play area for the children.
- How often does the circuit manager visit the school?

- The presentation did not do a breakdown as to the number of boy vs girl learners in the school.
- The committee asked for information about the locked toilets and why they were not in use.
- The committee called for the school to assist the undocumented children by engaging with Home Affairs. This will also allow the children to receive social grants.
- In terms of children living with disabilities, how is the child who is partially blind at the school supported in terms of learning materials?
- The committee raised concerns over the lack of ICT material at the school and highlighted that the Department needs to prioritise the delivery of ICT infrastructure.
- The committee also indicated that the school must seek private sector partners to assist the school as part of its corporate social responsibility.

#### **4.13.4. Responses**

- The HOD appeared for the first time before the committee, as he had prior engagements on previous days of the oversight. He confirmed all the schools the committee had visited and identified infrastructure challenges requiring immediate attention, which will be addressed through the department's emergency procurement process.
- In response to the shortage of classrooms for Grade R learners, the Department is on the list of schools to receive two mobile classrooms.
- In response to scholar transport at the school, the school does not qualify for scholar transport because learners stay within 5km of the school. The remaining learners attend the school as a school of choice; hence, private scholar transport.
- In response to the lack of cleanliness of the school yard and playground, the district is committing itself to ensuring that the school surroundings are neat and clean.
- In response to the poor state of ablution facilities, the broken areas within the ablution facilities must be cordoned off until repairs can occur.
- In response to the breakdown between boy and girl learners at the school, the school has 144 boys and 184 girls.
- In response to undocumented learners, the school indicated that the documentation of the learners was being processed. However, they previously had to face the reality that most foreign learners move to other schools when the school requests documentation.
- In response to the inclusive education, the school has a partially blind learner and is currently looking for an alternative school for the blind to accommodate the learner due to its infrastructure deficiencies.

#### **4.13.5. Recommendations**

- The Department is to provide the school with the two mobile classrooms for the Grade R learners by 30 April 2026.
- The Department is to ensure that ceiling is installed in all the school's classrooms by no later than 31 May 2026.
- The Department is to ensure that repairs to ablution facilities at the school are completed by no later than 31 March 2026.
- The district is to ensure that the school year is cleaned and that a play area for the children is established by no later than 31 May 2026.
- The Department is to assist the school with excavation work to make way for the school to have sports facilities.
- The Department is to ensure that the school has dedicated facilities for the Grade R learners.
- The Department is to assist the school in securing Wi-Fi and ICT infrastructure by no later than 30 June 2026.
- The school is to establish a vegetable garden by no later than 01 April 2026.
- Status update report on all the above recommendations is to be submitted to the Select Committee Secretariat by no later than 30 June 2026.

### **4.14. Site 15 – Ramela Primary School**

#### **4.14.1. Presentation**

- The school is a quintile two school
- The school has 341 learners.

- The school has 10 educators, including the principal, 8 level one educators, a departmental head, and an ECD practitioner. In addition, the school has an admin clerk, a gardener, two cleaners and two food handlers.
- The pass rate at the school in 2025 was 95.2%.
- The school has 28 enviro-loo toilets (12 for boys and 12 for girls). They are expensive in terms of sucking up the waste.
- There's only one foreign learner at the school who has no birth certificate. The matter has been referred to the social workers.
- The school uses a borehole with two 7500L water tanks for its water supply
- Five Educators have been trained on ICT utilisation.
- The school has access to WiFi.

#### **4.14.2. Site Challenges**

- The school highlighted that it experiences high costs in terms of cleaning the Enviro-Loot toilets.
- Electricity is expensive at school, where it costs approximately R4 500 per month.
- ICT resources at the school are not enough.
- The school kitchen, although not perfect, was built by the SGB.

#### **4.14.3. Committee observations**

- The committee requested that the department provide the school with smart whiteboards.
- The committee highlighted that the school should serve as a benchmark for other schools in terms of the good state of the yard.
- The committee commended the school for the access to a library on the premises.
- The library must be supported with educational games that teach problem-solving.
- The committee commended the school for creating an environment conducive to learning.

#### **4.1.14. Response**

- The department committed that it would ensure that the school is used as a benchmark for other schools in terms of its cleanliness, academic excellence and creating an environment conducive to learning.
- The HOD indicated that the issues raised by the committee will be immediately acted upon, and a report will be submitted to the committee.

#### **4.14.4. Recommendations**

- The Department is to assist the school with the necessary ICT infrastructure by no later than 30 April 2026.
- The Department is also to engage the school on its high electricity and Enviro-loo expenses, and evaluate how much more support to provide to the school.

## **5. Sports and Recreation Programme at Mogalakwena Local Municipality**

### **5.1. Site 15 – Mapela Stadium**

#### **5.1.1. Presentation and site observation**

- The facilities are situated in the Mapela Area, Mesopotamia Village.
- The facility is used for soccer, athletics, volleyball and Netball.
- The contract for the upgrading of the facilities was valued at R21.8 million and was done in two phases in the 2018/19 financial year. The project was completed in the 2021/22 financial year.
- The scope of the project was as follows:
  - Manufacture and supply of a fixed steel stand with a roof to accommodate 500 people.
  - Construction of an athletics track of 6 x 1.22. wide lanes on an Asphalt wide lens with a non-skid all-weather surfacing.
  - Construction of changerooms of 270 square meters with separate showers, mini boardroom, reception guardhouse, office and public toilets.
  - 4 x 25 high masts with stadialux-XP 2000w floodlights including lights for other courts.
  - Design and installation of a septic tank and soakaway.
  - Furniture for changerooms.

#### **5.1.2. Site Challenges**

- The infrastructure is present, but the stadium does not appear to be utilised.
- In terms of maintenance, the municipality only does grass cutting.
- They do not water the grass as there's water scarcity in the area.

#### **5.1.3. Deliberations**

- Concerns were raised over the poor upkeep of the stadium and its usage rate.
- Concerns raised that the newly built athletics track was made of tar and did not have Styrene-Butadiene Rubber granules and a top layer of high-performance rubber (Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer) in line with international standards.
- The committee wanted to know whether there are maintenance plans in place for the facility.
- The committee also requested a detailed cost breakdown for the recent construction of the facilities.
- The committee requested evidence of the use of the facilities (e.g. copies of booking sheets)

#### **5.1.4. Recommendations**

- The municipality is to submit the requests of the committee as outlined in 5.1.3. by no later than 31 March 2026.

### **5.2. Site 14 – Moshate Stadium**

#### **5.2.1. Presentation and site observation**

- On 12 January 2016, Tlou Consulting Engineers was appointed by the municipality to perform consulting services on the project.
- The appointment included Planning, design, project management and commissioning of the project.
- The municipality appointed Tainama Civils jv Superway as the contractor for the stadium.
- The scope of the work included;
  - Water, sewer, and stormwater, earthworks, boundary wall, borehole, pavilion structure, landscaping, and irrigation.
  - Soccer/rugby pitch, combo-courts, change rooms, outdoor gym, parling area, guard house x 2, and three gates.
- The total project value was 57.6 million, with consultant value being R15.7 million and construction value being R34.9 million.
- In the 2018/19 AGSA Audit report, the AGSA identified material irregularities (MI) regarding payment for work not done to the amount of R12.2 million, which was non-compliant with Section 65(2)(a) of the MFMA.
- Upon notifying the accounting officer of the MI on 14 December 2019, the following actions were taken:
  - Preliminary investigation was conducted on the 12 of February 2020, and it was revealed that two officials were directly involved (Deputy Manager: Technical Services and Divisional Head: Project Management Unit). They were then issued letters of suspension as of May 2020.
  - The contractor had terminated his contract with the municipality on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2020.
  - The investigation into the matter confirmed financial loss, and the officials were charged with misconduct.
  - In the disciplinary hearing of May 2021, it was reported that one official took early retirement in January 2021, while the disciplinary hearing continued for the other.
  - As the officials are no longer in the employ of the municipality, the disciplinary hearings were withdrawn.
  - The attorneys were appointed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 for the recovery of the money from the supplier. There was an intention to recoup the money from the retired employee if it could not be recovered from the supplier.
  - Court summonses were issued on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 in the High Court of Polokwane, where the municipality was lodging a claim of recovery of funds against the engineer and contractor, as well as the two officials responsible for the MI.
  - The summons was delivered to the defendants.
  - The particulars of the claim included conspiracy and fraud of R12 273 171.07 of amounts overpaid to the contractor.

- The defendants raised an exception, which was heard on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2023, and it was dismissed with costs.
- The date of the trial is yet to be provided.

#### **5.2.2. Site Challenges**

- The incomplete, vandalised, and completely abandoned facilities were in a state of disarray, with overgrown weeds and showing no signs of any activity taking place at the site.
- The only thing remaining was the wall and visible poles that looked like half-built grandstands.
- There was a partially incomplete zinc roof structure, which was supposed to be an outdoor gym.

#### **5.2.3. Deliberations**

- Currently, the committee only has a summary of the maladministration behind the Moshate Stadium. Therefore, a full investigation report into the construction of the Moshate Stadium, as well as the most recent information relating to the municipality's efforts in recovering the R12 million from the contractor and former officials, is required to deliberate further on the matter.

#### **5.2.4. Recommendations**

- The municipality is to submit the full forensic investigation report into the construction of the Moshate Stadium, as well as the current efforts in recovering the funds from the contractors and former implicated officials. This information must be submitted to the committee secretariat by no later than 31 March 2026.

### **5.3. Site 14 – Mahwelereng Stadium and Amphitheatre**

#### **5.3.1. Presentation and site observation**

- The site where the sports node was was an old dumping and quarry site, which was undeveloped.
- The redevelopment included the building of an Amphitheatre, the upgrading of the existing softball field and the development of a new cricket field to integrate sports facilities.
- The tennis and netball courts were upgraded and resurfaced.
- Picnic areas, walkways, and jungle gyms were provided
- Only the outdoor gym is currently used.
- There is security at the site.
- There are water shortages at the sites.
- The booking of the facility at R790 is contested by the communities who want to use the facility for free of charge.
- The sports node project was divided into smaller components that comprised earthworks, irrigation system, bulk electrical supplies around the park, lamp posts throughout the park, as well as a landscaping contract.
- The project was funded through the neighbourhood partnership development grant in the 2011/12 financial year with the following contract value:
  - Earthwrks: R4.8 million
  - Electrical: R4.9 million
  - Irrigation: R5.4 million
  - Landscaping: R4.5 million
- The project was completed in the 2013/14 financial year.

#### **5.3.2. Site Challenges**

- Currently, the facilities are not in use (except the athletics stadium and the outdoor gym).
- The reason provided for facilities not being in use was that the municipality experienced instability in 2013/14 at the completion phase of the project. During this period, the municipality's employees were absent from work for more than 8 months. The facilities were vandalised during this period.
- The vandalism affected the children's play area, the Amphitheatre, the ablution facilities, the irrigation system and the pump room.

- The municipality is unable to rehabilitate the facilities as it cannot generate income from them, considering the approved council tariffs.
- There were frequent water outages at the facilities, posing a challenge to irrigation and ablution facilities.
- The Amphitheatre was non-functional, with grossly overgrown weeds covering the seating area.
- The rubber of the athletics track was peeling off, showing signs of poor maintenance. It requires reinstallation.
- The ablution facilities at the stadium and the Amphitheatre were non-functional.
- The municipality used a grossly insufficient budget of approximately R265 000 over the past five years, only to repair water and electricity infrastructure.
- The only other maintenance work done by the municipality is grass cutting.
- The facilities require funding for refurbishment through private-public partnerships.

### **5.3.3. Deliberations**

- The committee was concerned about the poor maintenance of the stadium.
- The committee raised concerns over the untidiness and overgrown weeds of the stadium and the Amphitheatre.
- The committee wanted to know why the Amphitheatre was no longer in use, despite it being a new project where large sums of money were spent.
- The SC was concerned over the municipality claiming to have security at stadiums, yet there's vandalism and theft.
- The committee requested a full report on the state of the facilities, the past projects at the affected stadiums, as well as criminal charges to date against those implicated in abandoning projects.
- The committee raised concerns as to whether the investment was worth it and whether future funding would not result in the same collapse.
- There were concerns over the lack of community ownership and safekeeping of the facilities.

### **5.3.4. Recommendations**

- There needs to be a community/public consultation process before any future refurbishments take place at the facility to understand the needs of the community, discuss collective responsibility in safekeeping of facilities, and vandalism prevention measures to consider. This must take place by no later than 31 May 2026.
- A clear security and maintenance plan needs to be implemented before any refurbishing work takes place.
- The municipality is to conduct a transparent cost analysis of the refurbishment of the facilities and allow for sufficient community participation in the entire process.
- The municipality is to make use of the MIG to refurbish the athletics track.
- Given that the municipality is under section 139 intervention, the committee is to consider a meeting with the MEC of Cogta in the province to further discuss the way forward on the process of refurbishing the facilities following public consultation by no later than 31 August 2026.

The chairperson thanked all the stakeholders present, as well as the parliamentary delegation, for participating in a successful oversight visit to Limpopo province, and highlighted that all information requested by the committee during the visit be submitted to the committee secretariat within the agreed timeframes.

**Report to be considered.**

## 6. APPENDICES

### Appendix 1

#### Abbreviations

| Abbreviation | Full   |
|--------------|--|
| DBE          | Department of Basic Education                                |
| NSNP         | National School Nutrition Programme                          |
| SAPD         | South African Police Department                              |
| AG           | Auditor General  |
| ECD          | Early Childhood Development                                  |
| Cogta        | Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs |
| LTSM         | Learning and Teaching Support Materials                      |
| EPWP         | Extended Public Works Programme                              |
| SGB          | School Governing Body  |
| NMBM         | Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality                              |
| HOD          | Head of Department   |
| MEC          | Member of the Executive Council                              |
| BFI          | Budget Facility for Infrastructure                           |
| QMS          | Quality Management System                                    |
| CoE          | Compensation for Employees'                                  |
| BCM          | Buffalo City Municipality                                    |
| PSC          | Public Service Commission                                    |
| SMMEs        | Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises                         |
| JCPS         | Justice, Crime Prevention and Security cluster               |
| DSAC         | Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture                       |
| DHET         | Department of Higher Education and Training                  |
| SRC          | Student Representative Council                               |
| TVET         | Technical and Vocational Education and Training              |