

National Assembly

Member of Parliament

PO Box 15, Cape Town, 8000, Republic of South Africa Tel: +27 (21) 403-2911 www.parliament.gov.za

7 August 2017

Ms Angie Motshekga Minister of Basic Education By email: mabua.s@dbe.gov.za

Dear Minister Motshekga,

VUWANI MATRIC EXAM DISRUPTION

I am greatly concerned by the continued disruption of schooling in the Vuwani area of Limpopo this week. The protracted dispute over municipal demarcation has left learners in limbo for an unacceptable length of time.

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) found that the disruption of learning by service delivery protests infringes on the Constitutional right to a basic education. This latest disruption comes at the least opportune time — in addition to a suspension of teaching, matric learners are unable to write their prelim exams. The importance of these exams in helping learners prepare to write their final exams cannot be overstated.

It is thus imperative that an immediate plan be put in place to cope with the current protest, as well as contingency plans to ensure that matric learners in Vuwani are able to write their final exams this year.

I request that this issue be addressed as part of the Exam Readiness briefing to the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education next week (Tuesday 12 September). Specifically, the members must be briefed on:

- 1) The immediate plan to provide an alternate exam venue for Vuwani matrics to write their prelims in safety if schools cannot be secured; and
- 2) The contingency plans in place to ensure that matrics will be able to write their final exams without being intimidated or threatened.

I hope that you will be able to address these concerns in person.

Yours sincerely,

[submitted electronically]

Ian Ollis MPDA Shadow Minister of Basic Education 082 714 7572