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To the South African Human Rights Commission:

The Eastern Cape Provincial Leader of the Democratic Alliance, Nqaba Bhanga, hereby formally request your intervention and an investigation into the actions of the Eastern Cape Department of Education with regards to the Myolwa Senior Primary School in KwaNyathi village, Lusikisiki in the Eastern Cape.

The Democratic Alliance (DA) hereby files a complaint with the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) against the Eastern Cape Education Department for failing to provide adequate toilet facilities and sanitation, classrooms and resources for learners at Myolwa Senior Primary School in KwaNyathi village, Lusikisiki.

According to a recent report in City Press hundreds of children share four unsafe prefab classrooms, whilst some learners have to use crumbling mud structures or be taught outside under a tree. Apparently up to 5 learners have to share one desk, and even then there is not enough furniture for everyone.

The school's governing body is also alleging the department spent R4.8 million on 9 pit latrines. These pit latrines are apparently also incomplete and poses a danger to learners.

Over 3 000 schools across South Africa still have only pit latrines.

In March 2018 five-year-old Lumka Mketwa drowned in a pit toilet at Luna Primary School in Bizana in the Eastern Cape.

Shortly after, in November 2018, a five-year-old girl narrowly escaped drowning in human waste when she fell into a pit toilet at the Dalibango Primary School in Centane.

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In a response to a parliamentary question in March 2018, the EC Education Department said that there are still 3 088 schools in the Eastern Cape that have insufficient sanitation. This means that just less than 60% of schools and learners in the Eastern Cape are left with unhealthy sanitation facilities.

According to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, every person has the right to access to sufficient sanitation. The state must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of this right.

I am writing to you to urgently intervene in terms of these human rights violations.

NQABA BHANGA

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