



IPHALAMENDE LAKWAZULU-NATALI

KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINSIALE PARLEMENT

KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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The KZN MEC For Education

Hon KI Mshengu, MPL

Per email

Glenhaven Secondary and Dumabezwe High School

Sir,

The subject matters bare urgent reference.

You will no doubt have been briefed about the incidents at both these schools of even date.

At Glenhaven, the protest has turned violent and at Dumabezwe, learning and teaching has been halted. That is, two that we are aware of today!

The issues at the latter – in particular - are not unknown to your department. As is the case of the former. These have been raised severally and yet again, someone sat on their hands doing nothing. I say this with the conviction that if something was done, the violence and halting of learning would **not** have been an occurrence.

There clearly needs to be an assessment of all complaints received from schools over the past year – at the very least – and to assess which of the complaints are “chronic and inflammatory” and triage an urgent approach to each one. Such an undertaking can’t be delayed. There is no doubt that these are known to the department but there seems to be no formal and audited process to approach them – that we are aware of. Again, it is imperative that this must be done at the soonest so that progress can be made and further disaster averted.

There are clear areas resulting in the stagnation of dealing with the critical matters at these and other schools. Primary among them are teacher unions and then several allegations of corruption that continue to linger.

Your predecessor was clearly on the kip – if not on another mission – and you too must not be seen only to attend to ceremonial matters or only attend to matters when they are out of hand. Through your office, you have the time and resources to prevent the clashes such as seen today. The question is why is this not happening and why are we seeing this

kind of turmoil so often? Lest someone accuses you of `Missing in Action`, you must develop a mechanism for early detection and intervention – not only from the side of the department – but most imminently through your office/ Ministry.

In this regard, I have previously proposed that you to look into the **Schools Evaluation Authority [SEA]** set up in the Western Cape. Although you rubbished my suggestion using short term political claptrap, the long-term hot water that your department will land in without it, is becoming obvious by the day.

I urge you then,

1. To look into the SEA
2. To urgently conduct an audit of complaints received and to put a triaged plan in place to pursue the issues raised
3. To ensure that an Ombudsperson's office is established in the department.

I am hopeful that you will look at this positively and that you will put preventive measures in place.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Imran Keeka', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Dr Imran Keeka, MPL