



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Internal Ref Number: 009 - 2023
Date: 12.09.2023
Subject: Audit of Special Needs Schools

I hereby move, on behalf of the Democratic Alliance, that this House;

1. Notes that Carte Blanche recently exposed the terrible conditions at the school and hostel of the Ikhwezi Lokusa Special Needs School in Mthatha;
2. Further notes that Ikhwezi Lokusa was once a state-of-the-art facility for the care of children with disabilities in the Eastern Cape, but has been plagued by various challenges over the last twenty years;
3. Recognises that Carte Blanche's investigation started back in 2018, when it identified how the hostel infrastructure had deteriorated to the point where learners had to sleep on brick beds with only a thin mattress for comfort;
4. Further recognises that it was further identified that a critical shortage of caregivers often resulted in vulnerable learners being left for hours on end with no one to feed them or change their nappies;
5. Recalls that the Department of Basic Education made a range of promises to the learners and parents at the time, and that very few of these promises have realized to date;
6. Acknowledges that this terrible state of conditions is not limited to Ikhwezi Lokusa.
7. Calls on this House to resolve to embark on a comprehensive oversight programme to audit all special needs school in the Republic as a matter of urgency, to ensure that their hostels are up to standard, to audit the qualifications and readiness of all caregivers and educators, and to ensure that each special needs school has sufficient numbers of nursing and support staff.

I so move.

Ms A M van Zyl