

**THE CHILDREN OF SOME PARENTS IN FOREST VILLAGE NEAR EERSTE RIVER IN CAPE TOWN GO TO SCHOOL IN AN OPEN FIELD. THEY SAY NEARBY SCHOOLS ARE FULL.**

**BUT THE WESTERN CAPE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAYS IT'S JUST A TACTIC TO STRONG-ARM THEM INTO BUILDING A NEW SCHOOL IN THE AREA.**

**PARENTS AND TEACHERS COVER THE COST OF RUNNING THE SCHOOL THEMSELVES. THEY'RE ASKING FOR BASIC TEACHING MATERIALS AND A BUILDING.**

**EMPUMELELWENI**

**'WE WANT A SCHOOL FOR OUR CHILDREN'**

**00:36 - NOMFUNDO MPATENI**

**GRADE R TEACHER | EMPUMELELWENI**

We are working  
in an open field here.  
As we are working in the open-air  
there are no materials for us to use,  
like chalkboards.  
A chalkboard is a big challenge,  
because when I have  
to work with the kids,  
I have to take their books  
and write everything down for them.  
Another thing is that we  
are next to the road.  
While I'm teaching, the kids are watching  
the cars and shouting at the trucks.  
Noise is a  
huge challenge,  
and our classes are  
also not very far from each other.  
As I am a teacher of Grade 1,  
next to my class, there's Grade R.  
Once they hear other kids doing  
Grade R stuff, they also do the same.

**01:20 - ZIZIPHO NTETA**

**GRADE 8-11 TEACHER | EMPUMELELWENI**

They are young kids, so they can't spell.  
You say something else,  
and then they write something else.  
Another challenge  
is the weather.  
Sometimes it gets hot.  
You will find that  
kids want to learn,  
but they have to protect  
themselves from the sun,  
or stay under the trees and  
be far away from others.  
So, the fact that we are  
outside affects the kids,  
they get burnt by the

sun, and they can't focus.

**01:47 - NOMBUYISELO ABRAHAMS  
TASK TEAM MEMBER | EMPUMELELWENI**

We want a better  
education for these kids,  
so that we can be proud of them,  
because if we don't educate the kids,  
they might go and use drugs.  
Even if they give us some containers,  
or help us to  
build here in this place.  
So that kids will  
be able to learn.

**02:10 - NOMFUNDO MPATENI  
GRADE R TEACHER | EMPUMELELWENI**

They wanted us to take  
the kids to nearby schools,  
and those schools  
are full now.  
So the reason why the kids are  
here is because the schools are full.

**02:23 - ZIZIPHO NTETA  
GRADE 8-11 TEACHER | EMPUMELELWENI**

Some learners, they come with  
c-hairs or crates or mats to sit on,  
but the ones who stay far, they can't go  
all the way carrying crates or chairs.  
Two of them  
even stay in Philippi.  
they didn't get into schools, so this was their  
last option as they didn't have a place to learn.

**02:44 - NOMBUYISELO ABRAHAMS  
TASK TEAM MEMBER | EMPUMELELWENI**

They said a lot of things  
that are disrespectful to us.  
We, as parents, are struggling  
to find a place in the schools.  
I don't know what they want us to do with the kids hen they don't want to help us.  
Where do they want us to go?  
What do they want us to do?

***THE WESTERN CAPE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAYS IT HAS OFFERED PARENTS PLACES IN ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS FOR THEIR CHILDREN. "EVERY OFFER WAS DENIED, OR IT WAS ON CONDITION THAT WE USE THEIR 'EXISTING TEACHERS' AND CREATE A 'NEW SCHOOL' ON THE PREMISES OF ANOTHER."***

***THE DEPARTMENT SAYS IT "CANNOT SIMPLY APPOINT TEACHERS OR CREATE NEW SCHOOLS IN SUCH A MANNER. WE HAVE TO CONSIDER A VARIETY OF***

***FACTORS – INCLUDING THE FACT THAT OTHER AREAS HAVE MORE SERIOUS CHALLENGES WITH REGARDS TO ADMISSIONS AND SHOULD BE PRIORITISED."***

***FOR THE FULL RESPONSE OF THE WESTERN CAPE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT GO TO [bhekisisa.org](http://bhekisisa.org) OR [ehwoza.com](http://ehwoza.com).***