

Dear Tasha

The WCED is aware of a school that is allegedly operating illegally in Forest Village, Eersteriver.

Certain community members are demanding that the WCED build a school within the new housing development that has been developed. The WCED engaged with the community “task team” last year, at no stage were mobile units promised. There is no land in which to place them on (we can’t simply place mobiles on land that does not belong to us) nor is it in our planning.

The community has thus allegedly created an illegal school, in an attempt to strong arm the WCED into building a school. The WCED has been confronted by similar attempts like this in the past, where certain teachers are vying for jobs through this kind of action by community members.

The WCED had originally offered at the end of last year various alternatives in which to place their children – both primary and high school. **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.** We 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.

Since addressing parents directly, and not via the “task team”, some parents have accepted placement at the schools we have offered, including Apex Primary School.

The “task team” is continuing to allege that hundreds of learners are without schools.

The lists provided to us of learners requiring placement are, however, questionable.

Many of the names have no ID numbers or contact numbers attached. We have started going through the list and have realized that many of the numbers are of random people from all over the Province or country, from Ashton in the Western Cape to Gauteng! A child born in 2017, is on the list as a Grade 1! Another Grade 9 learner is registered at nearby Forest Heights Leadership Academy.

For the list of Grade 2’s provided of the 18 parents which we contacted – 2 of which were at the illegal school, and 11 registered at other schools in the Province.

The “school” has allegedly appointed an SGB and teachers. They have adopted a uniform and a school name. The school is not a WCED registered school and thus has no legal standing.

The WCED has recently completed two new schools in this area. The first is Forest Village Leadership Academy in 2015/16 and the second, Apex HS in 2017/18. These schools are literally on the periphery of the Forest Village. We also completed a new Mobile school in 2019/20, called Apex PS, which was expanded with 10 mobile classrooms in 2020.

We will continue to engage with the parents of the community on the placement of their children. Unfortunately, those that have refused to take up our offers are doing so to the detriment of their child’s education. They have also lost opportunities for placement at other schools, as those places have now been given to parents who have accepted them.

Kind Regards

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