



Centre for Child Law stands by report on Gauteng school shortage

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 27 January 2017

We note the Gauteng Education Department's comments on our report, "*Budgets & Bricks: Progress with school infrastructure following the Rivonia Primary School case*", which sets out its role in the acute shortage of school places for learners. The GED's response was published on 25 January 2017 in a Pretoria News article titled "Scathing report on schools rejected". This is the first response, albeit indirect, we have received from the GED on this issue. We had requested the GED's response to the "*Budgets & Bricks*" report twice in 2016– on 22 October 2016 and again on 4 November 2016 – prior to its publication on 5 December 2016. These requests were met with no response.

In the newspaper article, the GED indicates that they blame shortages of schools and rapid migration for the current crisis in school placement. This statement aligns with what is set out in the report. The report highlights the fact that the current crisis could have been avoided had the GED planned sufficiently in the recent past. Based on population and schools data already available, it was possible for the GED to determine the broad trends concerning the anticipated number of schools required and the rate of migration of learners to Gauteng.

We note that the GED rejects the figures we have provided in the report and wish to point out that the figures were developed by economists who based their information on data provided to the Constitutional Court by the GED in the *Rivonia case*¹ in 2013. The judgment can be viewed [here](#) and a summary [here](#). While we are pleased that the GED is making some progress in 2017 by aiming to complete nine schools by the end of this financial year, we note that there is no indication of steps that they had taken in the previous years to avert the shortage of schools.

We are concerned for the children who are missing out on their schooling due to lack of placement (in 2017 and in previous years), we hope that engaging with the GED will lead to a better outcome for children going to school in 2018. In this light we remain committed to meeting with the GED and presenting our report to them. We believe it can assist them in planning ahead for the future.

Ends.

For further information please contact the Centre for Child Law on 012 420 4502.

The report "*Budgets & Bricks: Progress with school infrastructure following the Rivonia Primary School case*" can be downloaded in PDF [here](#) (5MB).

¹ MEC for Education in Gauteng Province and Other v Governing Body of Rivonia Primary School and Others 2013 (6) SA 582 CC (3 October 2013).

Budgets & Bricks

Progress with School Infrastructure Following the
Rivonia Primary School Case

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