

TO : NEWS EDITORS

FROM : THE MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATE : 18 APRIL 2012

SUBJECT : NO NEED FOR ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS FOR SENIANYA PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Mpumalanga Department of Education refutes claims made in an article by one of the daily newspapers on Monday 16 April 2012, alleging that **Senianya Primary School** is highly overcrowded.

While the Department concedes that there are schools which are currently experiencing overcrowding due to a shortage of classrooms, the need for renovations, improvement of sanitation systems and the fixing of storm damaged schools and areas that require new schools, the fact is that the situation concerning Senianya Primary School has been exaggerated.

This school currently has **18** classrooms, **693** learners and **22** educators.

The breakdown of grades, number of classrooms and learners is as follows:

Grade	Number of classes	Number of learners
R	1	83.
1	3	133
2	3	109
3	3	89
4	2	76
5	2	82
6	2	55
7	2	66
Total	18	693

Since this is a primary school the classroom pupil ratio is supposed to be **1:40** and they are currently at **1:38** which is below that norm.

This means that the school is not overcrowded and there is no need for the provisioning of new classrooms.

In relation to the number of grade R learners, the school should have enrolled learners within its capacity and directed others to neighbouring Early Childhood Development Centres.

The view of the Department is that the curriculum stream of the school was not properly aligned in accordance to its infrastructure capacity.

To this effect, the Department will send a team of curriculum implementers to advise the school management and the school governing body on what to do to remedy the situation.

The Department reiterate its position and willingness to ensure that all our schools are in good state for the enhancement of teaching and learning and will in the 2012/13 financial year spend R692, 387 million on 178 school projects.

End

Issued by the Communication Directorate

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