

Media statement  
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## **NWPL CALLS DEPARTMENTS TO ACCOUNT ON CHALLENGES OF SPECIAL SCHOOLS**

North West Provincial Legislature's Portfolio Committee on Education, Sports, Arts and Culture has set up a meeting with the Departments of Education; Health; Social Development; and Public Works so that they can come and account as to why the special schools have not received the necessary assistance from them. This was done after the Committee found that Special Schools are having serious administration challenges, during an unannounced oversight visit to various special schools in the province last week.

The Committee found that most schools do not have a special curriculum designed for learners with mental disabilities and there is no proper infrastructure for learners who are physically challenged.

Chairperson of the Committee, Hon. Fenny Motladiile, said most schools use furniture that is suitable for mainstream learners, which is not suitable for learners with disability.

"We are urging government departments to pay special attention to Special Schools. In fact most schools do not have the right furniture and toilets.

"There is no curriculum development for these schools. How do you expect a learner who is mentally disabled to cope with a curriculum used in mainstream schools?", said Motladiile.

The principal of DP Moloto Special School in Lehurutshe, Ms Maphuthi Tsime, told the Committee that she downsizes the mainstream schools' curriculum to suit their learners.

"We do not have a choice but to downsize the curriculum from the primary school next to us so that our learners can cope with it.

"There are no physiotherapists, psychologists and speech therapists visiting the school. Even social workers we have to go to them ourselves to get assistance," said Ms Tsime.

Almost all the school that the Committee visited had problems with transporting the learners. Although the schools are subsidised by the Department of Education, the funds are not enough to keep the schools running.

Members of the media can contact Namhla on 079 527 0628 for further information.

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