

**SECTION27 ANALYSIS OF THE NORMS AND STANDARDS REPORT FOR
LIMPOPO 2018/2019**

This memorandum contains a brief analysis of the nature and contents of the report provided by the Limpopo Department of Education to the Department of Basic Education in terms of sections 4(6) and (7) of the Minimum Uniform Norms and Standards for School Infrastructure.

General comment on the quality of the report

1. This is the third N&S report that has been made available by the LDOE since the Norms and Standards were passed. We refer to the reports as the 2016 N&S Report, the 2018 N&S Report and the 2019 N&S Report. There is a 7 month period of time between the 2018 and 2019 reports.
2. In some respects this report is a vast improvement on previous N&S reports produced by the LDOE. Most notably, for the first time, the LDOE has provided long lists of individual schools provided with, or earmarked for, infrastructure improvements, and the associated funding source which will support these.
3. The report is explicitly based on the findings of the CSIR condition assessment, as it has been in previous years.
4. However, despite this improvement, there are a number of troubling observations coming from the report, which are described below.

Specific issues which are particularly troubling

5. As Equal Education have raised in their analysis of the report, issues of data inaccuracy persist:

Data Source	Number of schools in Limpopo with pit toilets only
SAFE Initiative audit – August 2018	507
N&S 2019 Report – January 2019	765

6. The 2016 N&S Report records that at the time of reporting, there were 897 schools in Limpopo with pit toilets only. The 2018 N&S report reports that there were 765 schools in Limpopo with pit toilets only. The 2019 N&S report records that, still, 765 schools in

Limpopo have pit toilets only. **This implies that not one of these 765 schools has been provided sanitation between June 2018 and January 2019.**

7. The infrastructure backlog analyses are identical in the 2018 N&S reports and 2019 N&S reports.
8. In the 2016 N&S Report, the LDE noted that if it utilised its full infrastructure budget to address water and sanitation issues, *“it will take at least three years”* to resolve these issues.¹ It notes further that if it continues to allocate its current proportion of 20% of its infrastructure budget to sanitation projects, it will take 10 to 12 years to complete the projects identified. It notes further that this does not take into account the 3894 schools which require classroom construction or maintenance. The 2018 N&S Report repeats this paragraph, almost word for word, figure for figure. The 2019 N&S Report repeats this paragraph, almost word for word, figure for figure. We could draw a few possible inferences:
 - a. The paragraph is being negligently copied across from year to year
 - b. Not a single school which requires classroom construction or maintenance has received it since the reporting in the 2016 N&S report – the need remains precisely 3894 schools.
 - c. None of the sanitation backlogs, since November 2016 have budged. The estimated completion time has remained 10 to 12 years since November 2016 – a time period of two and half years.

¹ 2016 N&S Report page 8.

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