



AZAPO

AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION

TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: AZAPO SECRETARY FOR PUBLICITY & INFORMATION

DATE: July 03, 2024

SUBJECT: AZAPO IS DISTURBED BY THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN THE EASTERN CAPE

AZAPO finds it concerning that earlier this week, the Eastern Cape Education Department has been reported as saying more than 9000 learners in the province have reached grade 12 without having passed a single grade in their academic journey.

The blame was placed on the progression policy of the Department, but it has since emerged that the failure of the Department to manage the inclusive program is the major cause of this chaotic situation.

The Department is now opting for an easy way out to close schools which are unfortunately utilized by black communities who are unable to access better schools elsewhere due to poor conditions they find themselves.

It is alarming that the Department is unable to establish special schools to cater for learners with learning barriers and put them in the same learning spaces with all the other learners.

Not all teachers are equipped to handle a situation comprising of learners with heterogeneous needs to education.

Learners with learning difficulties deserve own schools and specially trained teachers to handle them. Failure to address this is to set them for failure.

Worse disturbing is that some of the learners are autistic and need schools that can cater for this challenge and closing down schools is not a solution.

It is equally alarming that labour movements are quite on the matter as this affects the well-being of the teacher and it is basically an abuse of those who are in those schools because of desperation and no other alternative.

Well-functioning schools have therapists employed by the department and yet in most black schools there is none and learners are never assessed. If they are, it will be the fortunate few as there are very few psychologist and social workers in black schools.

Instead of closing schools, AZAPO demands that the department must look at converting some of the schools into special schools and establish a school for autism. This comes against a backdrop of local government in the Eastern Cape returning over R 700 million of unspent budget.

AZAPO further calls on the department to train teachers and equip communities to ensure functional system.

END

Issued by **AZAPO** Department of Publicity and Information (DPI).

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