

Plans to build Cove Ridge school at Leaches Bay underway

By Ziyanda Sidumo

After parents from Leaches Bay (Emagalini Abomvu) refused for their children to attend the third term at Cove Ridge Primary School because of its terrible conditions and location, the Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE) visited the school and the Emagalini Abomvu community, last Tuesday. The parents claimed that the school, situated on a farm in Cove Rock eight kilometres from where its pupils reside, is a health hazard, unsafe and not a conducive environment for children to learn. The story appeared on the front page of last week's *Rising Sun*, August 14 issue, titled, "School Shut down for third term." Eastern Cape Department of

Education spokesman, Mali Mtima, said the department was aware of the situation and has been in constant communication with the community. "We have sent all proposals to Public Works. We are now waiting for the Site Development Plans to be approved by Public Works and the municipality. When we sent the proposals to Public Works, we were even accompanied by some of the community members. We are making strides to remedy the situation, but due processes need to be followed. We can't just build a school. The land needs to be surveyed and checked if it is suitable for a school to be built," said Mtima. Community member, Nobulumko Nkoyi, said they have hope that a school will be built soon at Emagalini Abomvu. "We have

hope that our children will have a school here where they live not so far away in some deserted farm. I hope that Public Works and the municipality could speed up the process of approving the plans so that children can have a proper school," said Nkoyi. Last Wednesday, about 415 Cove Ridge Primary School pupils commenced with their third school term programme. They were accommodated at nearby churches and at a shack where Cove Ridge Primary School Grade R class is situated.



Untidy classrooms gathering dust at Cove Ridge Primary School.



One of the toilets at Cove Ridge Primary School.