

# Bay schools on the chopping block

## REPORT FROM: P1

school. If you want to gazette a new policy you have to stipulate implementation dates and outline how it will affect labour and the curriculum.

“I understand not wanting to waste money and resources, but if you are going to shut small schools, you have to have plans in place to make sure that the pupils from smaller schools [or farm schools] do not fall through the cracks.”

Provincial education spokesperson Malibongwe Mtima said no schools were closed or merged without the necessary consultation processes taking place with

parents, school governing bodies, officials and school management.

“These schools no longer have learners or educators. They [pupils and teachers] have moved to nearby schools.

“The closed schools are not merged with other schools.

“They are moved to the historical files of the Education Management Information

System while post-closure processes are being undertaken.

“These include closing of school accounts, transfer of assets, and handing over these schools — if there is no other use for them in the department — to the department of public works.”

Addressing the issue of overcrowding, Mtima said the districts determined if there was

still a need to use these schools in cases of overcrowding.

“The proximity of the closed school and suitability of the classes will inform the decision of our districts in using any of the closed schools,” he said.

Public works department spokesperson Vuyokazi Mbanjwa confirmed that once school buildings were officially handed back to the department, security guards were procured to make sure that the schools were not vandalised.

She said there were instances where schools had fallen prey to vandals while the handover process had not been completed and finalised.

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