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No classes at Louis Rex Primary as builder dallies

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Louis Rex Primary School has expressed dismay over the tardy construction of prefabricated classrooms as part of a R26m project by the provincial department of public works and infrastructure (DPWI).

Due to the slow progress, pupils have not been able attend school for two weeks.

Principal Bevan Christoffels said the teachers and pupils would be under immense pressure to make up the lost time.

The school issued a notice to all parents informing them to keep their children at home until the classrooms are ready.

The chair of the school's SGB, Gerald Adams, said it was also raised in a meeting at the district education offices on Monday that not all promised prefab classrooms were being built.

The contract started seven months ago and only 10 classrooms are being built.

"We wanted to know: where are the last three?"

"Nobody could answer us and the contractor never gave us answers. The contractor is never on site unless there's a meeting called by the DPWI."

He also repeatedly asked at numerous meetings for a financial breakdown of the project to see how the money was being spent, to no avail.

"The professionalism of this whole project is compromised.

"This is a R26m project. It is not acceptable that this whole project is being held [at bay] by the contractor," he said.

He said the classrooms needed to be completed so pupils could return to school.

He said the old buildings were in a "dehumanising state" with leaks and health risks to the young pupils and staff.



DEMANDING ANSWERS: Louis Rex primary parents and SGB picketing outside Chris Hani District Department of Education as they want answers from the department about the school buildings. *Picture: SUPPLIED*