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STANDING FIRM: Pupils, parents and community members protest outside David Livingstone Senior Secondary School yesterday morning due to upgrades of the school being placed on hold. Picture: WEPNER HILLS

David Livingstone pupils, parents protest over stalled upgrade

Bryan Goliath

David Livingstone Secondary School pupils took to the streets of Schauderville yesterday morning to draw attention to their ongoing concerns about the state of the premises.

Their grievances lie with the department of education after a contractor who was meant to complete the school upgrade walked off site after allegedly not being paid.

Because of this, pupils, their parents and the school governing body (SGB) are fuming.

SGB chair Andre de Monk said it was heartbreaking to see

the school incomplete.

"The school is 90% complete but there is still a lot of important work to be done.

"The toilets are not functioning at the moment and we cannot guarantee the safety of the scholars. There are holes in the floors and they can trip and hurt themselves."

He said seven years ago, they created two additional classes for pupils with learning difficulties.

"But there is no equipment for these two classes. It seems as if David Livingstone has been forgotten," De Monk said.

1812 Movement president

and community leader Julian Julies said it was just another example of the incompetence of the government.

"This project should have been handed over in 2019.

"I was one of the entrepreneurs on site and there was a lot going wrong.

"What is happening here is a slap in the face for the scholars, teachers and the community.

"All of us are fed-up because at the end of the day, the children are the ones who suffer."

A grade 11 pupil said to draw attention, they needed to protest for a full week and not

just for one day.

"We are not being taken seriously.

"Things cannot go on like this. This is not fair to us," the pupil said.

Another grade 11 pupil said they struggled every year.

They then protested for a day, but nothing came of it.

Education department spokesperson Vuyiseka Mboxela said the department of public works would make two payments to the contractor.

She said the implementing agent would then hold a meeting with the contractor to negotiate its return to the site.