

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

(Form of Petition to Parliament)

EDUCATION INEQUALITY DUAL MEDIUM SCHOOLS IN NAMAKWA REGION
TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY

OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

The Petition of the undersigned ¹

I am Brenda Matebe a single working parent residing at 531 6th Avenue, Nababeep, Springbok in the Northern Cape. I am struggling to educate my two minor children aged 12 and 9 years. We are now part of the Namakwa community since 30 March 2016. The **Afrikaans Education system** in Namakwa Region, Northern Cape is still **oppressing, depressing** and limiting our black children's capability of getting good marks. All **74 public schools** are Afrikaans medium and black children are forced to attend a private school that is **not affordable**. Our black children do not have any type of **support**, they are always confused and they feel stupid because they are the only ones that are lost in the classroom. The Afrikaans Education System **deprives** our black children of a **basic need, democracy** and their **Constitutional Right**.

Respectfully requests: That²

The system must **intervene, bring transformation** and **free a black child** from being **forced** to learn and be taught in Afrikaans. Our black children **do not know the language** and yet they are expected to pass their Grades and this is not possible for many of our black children. Our black children are used to English education and Afrikaans as second language. Our black children will **drop out of school** before the age of **15 years**, please help to prevent this from happening. Black parents are not treated with respect, they are **forced to speak Afrikaans** and they do not get enough information when they enquire about registration at the public schools of Namakwa. Our children are still called **Kaffir, baboon and stupid**. Some of these cases are reported to the affected schools but they do not get anywhere. Our clever black children are being laughed at when they fail a test and labelled as stupid. Our black children need English text books so that they can learn at ease. Our children do not like to go to school anymore and their self-esteem has gone down all they know now is that they cannot achieve anything. This Afrikaans education system separated lots of black families because we send our minor children back to where we come from to get English education.

I would like to bring this absence of English classes to the National Assembly because I do not have the power to change the lives of a black child. This petition maybe the only manner in which a black child can be rescued. Our children will have a peace of mind, look forward to going to school, the **fear** and **discrimination** will fade away if **dual medium schools** could be **implemented**. A black parent can also be free of expensive school fees and can finally have money for the household. Our children will never consider dropping out of school and they will have our support because currently we cannot help with

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consider dropping out of school and they will have our support because currently we cannot help with homework. Dual medium schools can **unite** our children at school once the other races can see that our black children are capable of getting very good marks and their performance would be great. Our children would not be undermined and called names. Our black children would also be able to get **8 distinctions** if dual medium schools can be **implemented**. Dual medium schools would change the lives of black children and they would be in a position to obtain bursaries and fly our country's flag high in the world. Other races can also benefit from the classes not all parents are happy with the Afrikaans Education System they are also stuck but they have a benefit of knowing the language. Our black families would be united and parents can take care of their children themselves.

I wish that the department come clear about **language** and **admission policies**. Schools must stop **communicating** with black parents in Afrikaans we do not understand **first language Afrikaans**. We are not informed; our children are not the ones that should keep us updated with the activities of the schools. **Admission to public schools** should not be a **complicated process** where higher authority must intervene before a black child can be admitted at the **privileged school**. **Rejection** of our children should be in **writing** and if we request a letter that declared the school full we should get such documents. **Discrimination and unfair treatment** towards black children and parents should come to an end.

I am the only parent that signed this petition because parents are afraid to support the movement. This is a very small town every activity a parent involve themselves in goes to their work place where they get **isolated, deprived of certain things and treated unequally**. Most of the managers and parents that hold top positions are active members at the Springbok Primary School (we want our black children attend) and the High School. This creates a problem for our movement because parents are victimized at work for being involved in this movement. We protested in front of the Department of Education Last year, this protest affected many parents at work. We protested in January 2020 again the numbers **went down to 3 parents** that participated. I am loyal to the children and to the parents affected; that is why I am going to be alone in this journey. I cannot look away and **encourage the injustice** that a black child still faces today in this democracy.

I tried my best to engage with the **local department, MECs office and National Office** with no success that is why I am now reaching out for help in this matter. The matter is of the **Public's interest** many South Africans do not know that there are still places like Springbok that **resist change**, that doesn't have a problem with **racism at schools** and **social responsibility** is something that is not important in this region.

I am not afraid to be the voice of these voiceless children, I will knock on any door for help and I will never apologize for fighting for the helpless black children. This change will not benefit my children only and the affected children now. This change will affect generations to come their future will be brighter than the stars. This change is the first step of uniting our diverse culture in this region.

Wherefore your petitioner prays that the National Assembly will be pleased to take my case into favourable consideration, and grant such relief as it may deem fit.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

SIGNATURE: 

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