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## Use of pit toilets in schools concerning

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Siphelele Nketo

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**FEVER**

DEMOCRATIC Alliance (DA) members including Dr Rishigen Virana, the DA's MPL in the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature, visited two rural schools in the Harry Gwala District on Monday as part of the school monitoring programme. They were shocked to learn that pupils are still using pit toilets during the new dawn of democracy. St Faith's Junior School in Umzimkhulu is one of the schools still using this old-fashioned system.

"At the school we were informed that temporal toilets which were donated by Government are not usable because of unsafe conditions and pupils are now using pit toilets which put their lives at risk.

"The boys' toilets were destroyed by a natural disaster in 2012 and were not replaced," said Virana who is also the party spokesperson for education. Virana said that the school was built in 1984 but infrastructure is deteriorating. "The school depends on rain to get water, when there was no rain they hired vehicles to bring water to the school," Virana said.

On the same day, DA members also visited Pholela High School in Bulwer which was established in 1967.

Pholela had produced many well-known people who worked at Government departments and private companies. Some of the alumni include: KZN Premier Willies Mchunu and former African Union Chairperson Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma.

Virana said that it seems as if Government had neglected Pholela High because of old infrastructure. He said that Pholela had lost beauty. "At Pholela we discovered computer labs which were not working, classrooms had broken windows and in some classrooms over 60 pupils were cramped in one classroom. All these findings will be combined and tabled during the sitting of KZN Provincial Legislature," said Virana. Virana said that they visited the two schools, not for campaigning but to avoid cases of children drowning in unsafe toilets in the country.

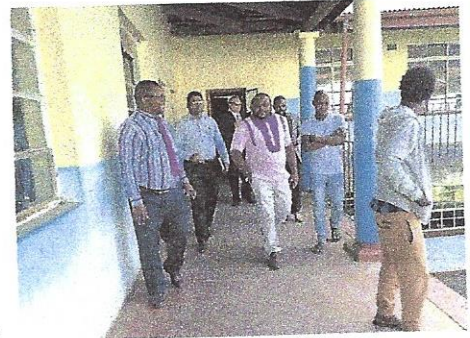


PHOTO: Supplied DA members at Pholela High School accompanied by staff.