

Visit to Ponelopele 2 (Central Bloemfontein on 27 October 2015)

John Aitchison

Ponelopele 2 is a satellite of the main community learning centre of Ponelopele 1 centre in a nearby township.

I met Ms Monica Mngomezulu (Phone: 0769578877), the Centre manager (Satellite), and three of her staff.



The staff of Ponelopele 2



Ms Monica Mngomezulu
Centre Manager



The Maths teacher

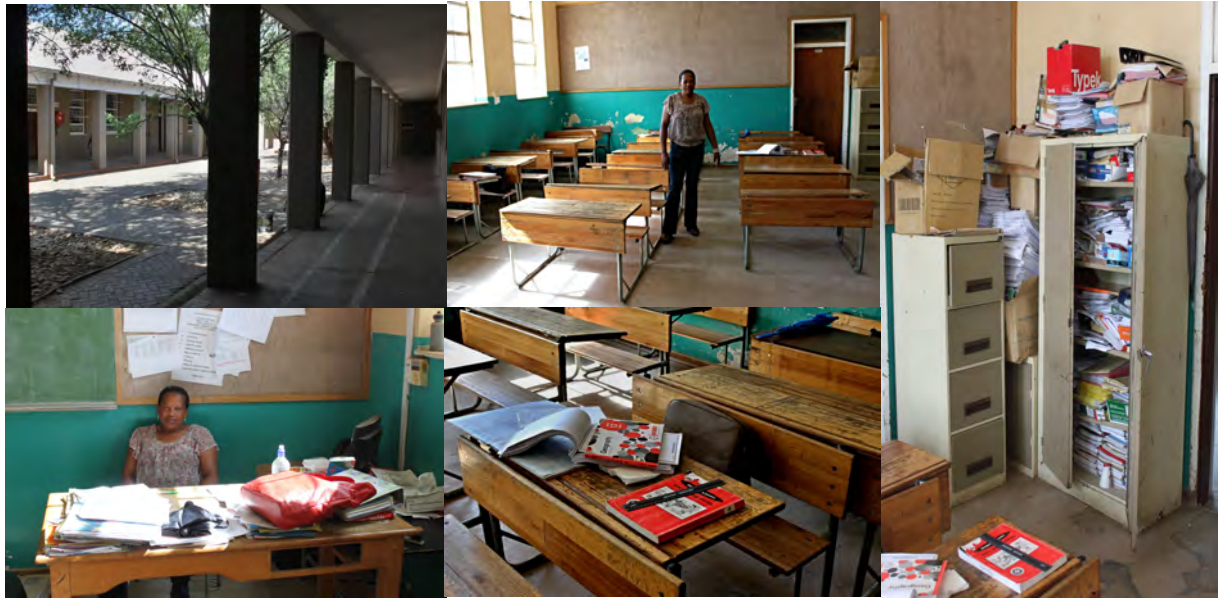
Mngomezulu's position as a centre manager, even though it is a satellite, may reflect old Free State practice, as all Centre Managers at both main and satellites are paid the same. She had been a Centre Manager of another "main" centre that closed down because of small numbers.

I went through the questionnaire that had been compiled for both main and satellite and this I have edited to add new points or clarifications.

Material in this report is mainly to add additional information, observations and comments that do not fit into the questionnaire.

The Centre

The satellite centre uses classrooms in the Rose View primary school in central Bloemfontein, a fairly typical example of a previously “white” school that has been abandoned as whites moved out to the suburbs and now has an entirely black pupil attendance, though the teaching staff includes people of all population groups. The school is in moderate condition, though a bit debilitated in terms of paint, etc. inside the classrooms. The school has good security.



The adult centre makes use of ordinary classrooms and one of them (a grade 4 classroom) is used by the centre manager as her “office” (which means she uses the teacher’s desk and has two cupboards in a corner for her materials, records, books). The room did not look tidy or cared for. Other educators simply use a children’s desk as their “office”.

According to the Centre Manager there are 63 centres (both main and satellite in the district). There is a big centre at Botshabelo (60 to 70 kilometres away).

The function shift

The provincial Adult Education directorate had a system of district managers and SESs. It is as yet unclear what will replace this. They have been told that the Community College will be operational in 2016! The old directorate seems to be still in operation and the centre has received one visit from a SES since the function shift on 1 April.

A lot of things seem to have been put on hold because of the awaited function shift. One very negative outcome was that educators with only a higher certificate (ABET) from UNISA did not get the salary rise that other educators got.

The lack of Kha Ri Gude intake

Mngomezulu says that Kha Ri Gude did not really operate in town but mainly in the townships. She thinks Kha Ri Gude mainly attracted older people who wanted to learn enough to cope with such things as signing for their pension and counting their money. They did not want to study further.

Resources

Although there is an agreement with the school they cannot use school facilities such as library, staff room or the photocopier.

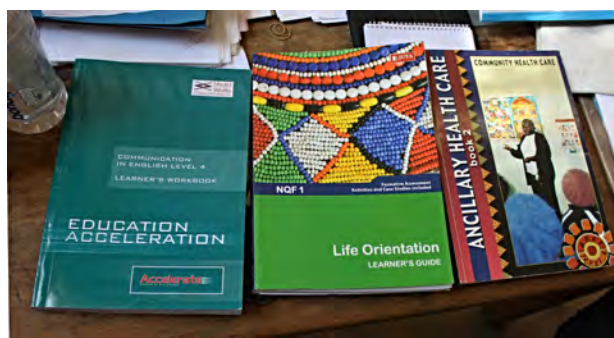
There are no textbooks or readers for learners at all!

A few textbooks were provided to educators. Ones that I saw were:

Communication in English. ABET level 4. Learner's workbook. [Media works, 2010)

Ancillary Health Care. Book 2. [Stimela, 2004]

Life Orientation. NQF 1. Learner's book. [Juta, 2011]



Photocopy of Grade 12 Maths textbook

[Shuttleworth Foundation, originally printed by DBE about 2008 and on its web site] 2 copies.

One educator had his own copy of a St John's ambulance workbook on **Basic Home Care**.

Paperwork

They have four books: a logbook (occurrence book, which I signed), Admission register, Class register, and Minute book.