

**The Involvement of Governing Bodies in School Administration
in the Vhembe District, Thulamela Municipality:
The Realities on the Ground**

P.E. Matshidze, E.K. Klu, A.K. Tugli and N.J. Ramakuela

¹Department of IKS, SHSS, University of Venda, Thohoyandou, South Africa

E-mail: pfarelo@univen.ac.za

²Department of English, SHSS, University of Venda, Thohoyandou, South Africa

*³Department of Public Health, School of Health Sciences,
University of Venda Thohoyandou, South Africa*

*⁴Department of Advanced Nursing, School of Health Sciences, University of Venda,
Thohoyandou, South Africa*

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ABSTRACT The South African Schools Act (Act 84 of 1996) stipulates that all public schools should have School Governing Bodies (SGB). The SGB concept is one of the ways in which communities can be involved in the running of their schools. However, despite the good intentions of the education authorities, SGBs especially those in rural areas have not been operating smoothly. This is either because they have not been properly trained to understand their duties or they are not adequately schooled to understand the concept of governance. Community involvement in school governance is not a bad idea but it should be carefully planned, implemented and monitored for it to be successful. Communities and school authorities should see each other as partners. Partnership can only be achieved and maintained if there is harmony between all stakeholders. This paper looks at the performance of SGBs, particularly the realities on the ground in rural areas in the Vhembe District, paying attention to their functions and some of the problems emerging as they go about performing what they believe to be their functions and duties. The paper recommends ways in which SGBs can be effective in their work.