

# Welcome Westlake Primary

**ANDRE BAKKES**

**THE Western Cape celebrated the opening of its eighth school this year when Education MEC Donald Grant officially unveiled Westlake Primary on Friday.**

There had been a growing need for a school in the Westlake community for years, and it was in 2010 that the Western Cape Education Department came up with its plan to build 20 new schools, 25 replacement schools and additional classrooms in the province over a three-year period.

The sod-turning ceremony for Westlake Primary was held in May last year, and the school is already fully functional, with the new occupants having moved into the new premises from a temporary location in April.

Students hail mainly from the Westlake community, and the school

is currently accepting students for next year.

Said Grant at Friday's ceremony, "I am delighted that, in just a short space of time, we managed to plan, approve, construct and complete a new school for the Westlake community.

"You can just imagine my delight to be able to walk through these new corridors with full confidence that we have before us a safe and secure learning environment for the children."

The school, which cost R22 million to construct, can accommodate 600 students in 14 classrooms, two specialist rooms, a computer lab, a library, an admin block and a hall.

"As with all new schools, all we can hope for them is that their empty new classrooms are transformed into hubs of teaching and learning, where learners and educators are safe and secure, and where quality learning is

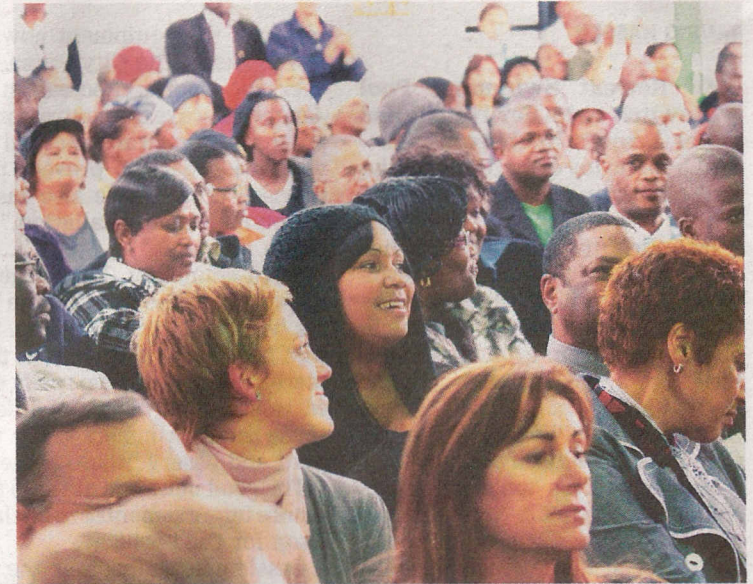
taking place," continued Grant.

"This responsibility falls on all of us. I like to think and believe that we are all in one big team – reaching for the same goal.

"So as school governors, educators, parents, education officials, community members and, most importantly, learners – let us all make this school a success."

Grant also used the opportunity to express his gratitude to everybody involved in making the school a reality, including the Ackerman Foundation, Westlake Trust, the City of Cape Town and numerous government departments.

The development was a cooperative venture between the provincial government and the Ackerman Foundation, which Grant described as "an important example of how the private sector can assist the Western Cape government in improving the quality of education in the province".



**VICTORY:** An air of optimism was prominent at the official opening of the new Westlake Primary School on Friday.

Photo: Supplied