



**'TEACHER' MOM:** Parent Cheryl-Ann de Klerk helps out by reading to a Grade 1 Primary School as the long crisis over teacher shortages continues

Pict

# Heartbreak full classroom

## Principals tell how schools struggle

**Lee-Anne Butler**  
butlerl@timesmedia.co.za

**P**RINCIPALS at schools in Nelson Mandela Bay told yesterday of their desperation and despair as crippling teacher shortages continue.

At some schools in the northern areas, parents have been supervising in classrooms since May last year.

Helenvale Primary School principal Malcolm Roberts said the school desperately needed two teachers as, at present, parents were supervising one Grade 3 class and one Grade 5 class.

"A parent usually arrives to supervise them and if there are no parents available, we split up the class and put them into other classrooms," Roberts said.

"But we sometimes end up with 70 children in a class."

A temporary teacher had left last month as he had heard that the department would not be extending his contract, Roberts said. Also, that teacher had not been paid for two months.

Further teachers with free periods were asked to assist with other classes and Grade 7 teachers assisted by giving pupils

classes," Roberts said. "We also have no money to pay for substitute teachers."

Grade 1 teacher Irene Mate said: "Sometimes the Grade 3 pupils come and sit in my classroom when there is no parent to watch them.

"I cannot do my work properly as the big ones are bored and they disturb the little ones."

Parent Cheryl-Ann de Klerk, 37, said she had been supervising Grade 3s.

"I read to them, but I feel upset because I am worried about

**Sometimes you end up in a situation with 70 children in class**

these children," De Klerk said.

"They are not getting their lessons. My child is in Grade 2 and I am worried she won't have a teacher next year."

Bayview Primary principal Tyrone Johannes said the school required two more teachers but did not have any available classrooms to accommodate them even if the department delivered the staff.

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