

**NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
EDUCATION PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE**



REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009

1. INTRODUCTION

The Department of Education Annual Report was tabled in the house and subsequently referred to the Portfolio Committee for scrutiny. On the 21st October 2009 the Department briefed the Committee on its annual performance for the year 2008/2009. The Departmental budget was R 7, 212, 335 and they managed to spend an amount of R7, 178, 647 billion . In 2008/09 budget the Department under spent their budget by R 33 688 .

The objective of the meeting was for the Department of Education to account to the Committee on how they have utilised the 2008/2009 budget to achieve intended service delivery programmes related to teaching and learning in schools. The presentation was centered on the following key programmes namely: **Administration, Public Ordinary School Education, Independent School subsidies , Public Special Schools , Further Education and Training , Early Childhood Development , Auxiliary and Associated Services .**

3. DEPARTMENTAL CHALLENGES IMPACTED ON SERVICE DELIVERY

- **Organizational Structure Issues:** The Department does not provide for revenue collection, therefore this function is deemed as an incidental function at the district.
- **Insufficient personnel budget:** No sufficient funding is allocated for compensation of employees resulting in high vacancy rate.
- **Infrastructure budget :** Development budget is not increasing significantly to address infrastructure backlogs and maintenance of schools .

- **Further Education and Training:** Some FET learners were unable to complete their studies due to financial constraints, language/ mathematics barriers. These students are not cognitively ready to deal with some NCV programme, especially engineering fields. The targeted number of FET learners to pilot the artisan skills programme could not be achieved.
- **Adult Basic Education Training :** The poor condition of service for Adult Basic Education Training educators .
- **Employment Equity Plan:** The national target for all women in senior management positions is 50 %. The Employment Equity Act no. 55 of 1998 does not make a distinction between women. All women form part of the previously disadvantaged groups, for entire senior management level, whereas the Department of Education is still at 37% women.
- **Infrastructure development / maintenance:** The Department is experiencing serious backlog of sanitation, renovation of old and dilapidated schools, fencing and water provision.
- **The shortage of classrooms in** many schools leads to overcrowding as a result schools are supplied with mobile classrooms.
- **Shortage of Maths and Science Educators:** Educators for Mathematics and Science are in short supply. In some schools these subjects are not taught by specialists in that field.
- **National School Nutrition Programme:** The shortage of National School Nutrition Programme staff.
- **The decline in population number:** this affects the Department enrollments per school as a result some schools are merged. Furthermore, it affects on planning for resources such as classrooms and learners support materials.

- **Poverty and Infrastructure:** The impact of HIV/ AIDS in schools and growing numbers of child headed households.

4. THE COMMITTEE'S CONCERNS

- **The Department received an unqualified audit opinion , but draw attention to the non-compliance with applicable legislation which highlights the following matters:**
 - **Treasury regulation :** not all receipts in excess of R500 were banked on a timely basis ,
 - Invoice to the amount of R31 148 were not paid within the 30 days as required.
 - National Treasury Practice note no. 8 of 2007/2008 original valid tax clearance certificates for all price quotations and competitive bids exceeding the value of R30 000(VAT included) could not be obtained .

South African Schools Act

- Contrary to section 43(5) of the South African School Act, 1996 (Act no.84 of 1996) 245 (14%) schools had not submitted the financial statements by 30 June as prescribed.
- Three hundred and thirty – nine schools (20%) were identified ; where annual financial statements submitted by schools were not compiled by an appropriate accredited individual as required by the South African Schools Act .
- The Department under spending by 0.47% i.e R33, 688 million whereas the Department is complaining that they are under funded by the Treasury.
- **Learner ratio in schools:** The failure to provide educators due to high classroom enrolments , plan in advance on the provision of learner materials

- **The Strengthening of special schools,** support to special schools which include provision of infrastructure, special learner materials, audio system etc .
- **Human Resource Management:** The shortage of educator's specialising in Mathematics, Science and Technology in schools. The high vacancy rate in the system where the Department have a high number of qualified temporary educators.
- **The Adult Basic Education Training Programme:** The ABET educators poor condition of service.
- **Further Education Training Colleges (FET's) :** The working relation between the Department of Labour and the Department of Education on the placement of learners who have completed the FET courses. The facing out of mining courses in the Orbit FET College: Rustenburg Campus.
- **The School Governing Bodies:** The training of SGB's on financial management to curb financial constraints.
- **The Scholar Transportation:** The Department of Education and Transport unclear coordination role and monitoring role on the scholar transport programme. This makes it impossible to provide transport service to the needy learners effectively.
- **Provisioning of Computers in Schools:** The training of educators, in computer skills and the safety of computer in schools.
- **Curriculum challenges:** The impacts of the new curriculum on learners, the mostly affected subjects are Literacy and Numeracy.
- **Value for money for example the challenge in the school** nutrition programme.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Portfolio Committee recommends that the Department of Education address the following issues:

- To develop a comprehensive strategy to address the shortage of educators specializing in Mathematics, Science and Technology in schools.
- To monitor and capacitate the finance unit in order to enhance the value for money principle against the unqualified audit opinion.
- To prioritise the ABET and the Kha ri gude programme to enhance literacy in the province.
- To coordinate and monitor the scholar transport programme effectively and efficiency.
- To improve its financial monitoring skills in regions to curb fruitless expenditure that leads to non-compliance.
- To monitor and support the school nutrition programme.
- To provide ongoing curriculum support at the FET'S, specials schools, and schools.
- To submit a written report on the temporary educators within 14 days.

6. CONCLUSION

In the nutshell the Committee commended the Department of Education on its unqualified audit opinion although there are other matters that need urgent attention as addressed by the Auditor General on the non compliance by the Department. Furthermore, the Committee recommend to the house to accept the Department of Education Annual Report 2008/09.



HON. A. MTHUPI

ACTING CHAIRPERSON: EDUCATION, PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE

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