

**NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
EDUCATION, SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE PORTFOLIO
COMMITTEE**



**REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
STRATEGIC PLAN BRIEFING/ PERFORMANCE PLAN FOR THE YEAR
2009/10**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Department of Education strategic plan for the financial year 2009/10 was referred to the Committee on Education, Sport, Arts and Culture for scrutiny. On the 30th June 2009 Department of Education was invited to brief the Committee on its strategic plan 2009/10.

The Department made a presentation highlighting the following key programmes, **Administration, Public Ordinary Schools Education , Independent School subsidies , Public Special Schools Education , Further Education and Training (FET's), Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET), Early Childhood Development, Auxiliary Services and Associated Services** . The total allocation for the Department of Education for the financial year 2009/10 is R 8 145 318, 000.

2009 MTEF Provincial Allocation per programme

Programmes	2008/09 year '000	2009/10 year "000
Administration	515 519	550 332
Public Ordinary School	5 978 438	6 846 429
Independent School Education	7 563	12 643
Public Special School Education	141 901	171 134 3
Further Education and Training	192 504	190 698
Adult Education and Training	109 504	111 865
Early Childhood and Training	174 057	193 156
Auxiliary Service	102 572	69 062
TOTAL	7 212 335	8 145 319

2. DEPARTMENTAL CHALLENGES

The following challenges were highlighted by the Department;

- **Equitable share:** The Department has been fairly funded but the benchmark of 51% according to the Fiscal Commission Formula has not yet been reached. The slight underfunding happens at a time when the Department is implementing the Occupational Specific Dispensation (OSD) for all educators.
- **Non- Compliance of the Department:** the lack of Human Resource and Financial Management Systems resulted in a qualified audit report.
- **The implementation of the no- fee school policy:** There is no allocation for the expansion of the no fee school in line with the recommendation made by the National Education Department for 2009/10 allocation and the Department must fund this priority from within the programme 2 budget to meet national targets.
- **High vacancy levels:** The unfilled vacancy rate due to the limited budget.
- **Section 21 schools:** In 2007/08 all schools were afforded a section 21 status but the problem is that management cannot monitor schools budgets.
- **ABET Expansion:** the Mass Literacy Programme started this financial year and the Department does not have enough control on the processes unfolding because the programme is centralised at the National Department of Education.
- **Curriculum Transformation:** The challenge in the implementation of the new curriculum is in the area of educator competency. The mostly affected areas are literacy and numeracy.
- **Employment Equity Plan:** the implementation of the Employment Equity Plan in the Department is not progressing positively.
- **National/ Provincial Policy Challenges:** The Implementation of the JIPSA, AS – GISA and PGDA focusing on skills development for contributing to the growth of the economy of the province.

- **School Governing Bodies:** The function of the School Governing Bodies (SGB's) has been difficult in the areas of monitoring the use of the funds transferred by the Department to schools.
- **Demographic challenges:** The migration patterns in the Province have been very difficult to predict, this impacts on planning on the provision of resource to schools and infrastructure development.
- **Socio – economic challenges:** The Department is affected by high level of poverty and unemployment in the province. The delivery of learner transport is meant to relieve children who travel long distance to schools. The feeding scheme has for a long time been targeted only for primary schools whereas hunger affects many other children in secondary and high schools.

4. COMMITTEE'S CONCERNS

The committee raised concerns regarding the following:

- The 2008/09 Departmental Auditor General's resolutions were not responded to highlights the following:
- The Department of Education received a **qualified audit financial** opinion which was as a result of the officials in the Department of Education participating in the adjudication process and awarding tenders to themselves or their relatives without seeking permission from the Head of the Department.
- **Infrastructure Development:** the shortage of infrastructure budget to address building of schools backlogs.
- **Scholar transportation :**The location of the scholar transport policy in the Department of Transport and many learners are still traveling long distances.
- **The crucial unfilled posts:** the unfilled posts affect service delivery in the Province.
- **Skill Development and Further Education and Training (FET's):** Development of Cluster Departmental strategy to address the learnership programme in the province, the support that the Department is providing to

address scarce skills shortage in the Province. The level of FET's educator's qualifications levels in relation to the teaching of the new programmes.

- **School Governing Bodies:** There is lack of adequate financial management training for School Governing Bodies that make sure there is good governance in schools.
- **School management:** The professionalism of educators in schools.
- **The Head count process:** the availability of the head counting report and its findings. The fairness of the educator's verification process.
- **National School nutrition programme:** The payment of the service providers and the menu to be of good quality. Is the programme addressing its intended objective of alleviating hunger in schools?
- **The implementation of the new curriculum:** the successes of the educators training programme to implement the new curriculum. There is general shortage of qualified Mathematics and Science educators in the province, and a number of schools, especially in rural areas are not attracting educators in these areas. What is the plan to respond to shortage of staff?
- **The Cross Border Demarcation process:** The North West and Gauteng province demarcation process affected the education service delivery in Merafong Districts. What is the intervention?
- **Computerisation of Schools:** There is provision of computers in schools whereas some educators are not computer literate. How will this challenge be addressed?
- **Temporary educators:** The increase in the number of temporary educators and the high vacancy rate in the Department. Why and what is the plan?
- **Shortage on the Infrastructure Development Budget:** the limited budget makes it impossible for the Department to build more schools, do renovations and maintain buildings. How can this process be best managed?
- **Khari gu de programme:** The minimal role that the provincial Department is playing in addressing illiteracy in the province. The money spent by Khari gu de

programme on resources rather than addressing all problems highlighted on the ABET programme why?

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the concerns mentioned above the committee recommends that;

- The Department to fill all crucial vacant posts.
- The Department to monitor and evaluate its programme on time to avoid further qualified audit opinion this financial year.
- The Department to respond to Auditor General's Report on time.
- The Department to establish a Departmental Cluster Strategy on how to address the Skills Development Plan in conjunction with Further Education and Training Colleges(FET's) mandate.
- The Department to provide financial management training to School Governing Bodies on a continuous basis to ensure good governance in schools.
- The Department to provide training on the new curriculum statement on a continuous basis to enhance competency of educators in the field of operation.
- The provincial Department of Education to inter-act with the Gauteng Department of Education to speed up the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide services to the Mefarong district.
- The Department must ensure that National school nutrition programme is beneficial to learners and service providers are monitored as well as paid on time.
- The Department to provide public education in special school and full service school in accordance to the Schools Act, no 84 of 1996 and White Paper 6 on Special Education Needs.
- The Department to coordinate the implementation of Khari gu de and ABET in the province.
- The Department to fast – track the capacitating of educators on computer literacy.

- 11
- The Department to submit head counting report within 14 days with effect from the day of the Strategic plan briefings.

6. CONCLUSION

The Portfolio Committee accepts the Department of Education Strategic Plan presentation, however, the Committee reminds the Department to ensure that they respond to the Auditor General's report on time. It further reminds the Department to expedite the filling of posts as was reflected as a challenge in their briefing. This will accelerate a better and efficient education system for sustainable livelihood. Furthermore the Portfolio Committee recommends that the House support the Department of Education Strategic plan 2009/10.

P.P. 

HON. GF. MOTLADIILE

**CHAIRPERSON: EDUCATION, SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE**

07 July 2009

Date