



**QUESTIONS PREPARED ON THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION'S 2018/19 ANNUAL REPORT  
PRESENTATION TO THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION**

07 October 2019

**SUBMITTED TO: Portfolio Committee on Basic Education**

Committee Secretary

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**SUBMITTED BY: Equal Education**

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Equal Education (EE) is a membership-based, democratic movement of learners, parents, teachers and community members advocating for the provision of both an equal and quality education in South Africa. In preparation for the tabling of the Department of Basic Education's (DBE) 2018/19 Annual Report, EE has drafted the following questions based on the presentation disseminated by the DBE. We hope that the questions we have drafted will support committee members in probing the contents of the DBE's annual report and further enhance this important oversight process.

**Programme 1: Administration**

1. In his State of the Nation Address, President Cyril Ramaphosa committed to prioritising the early years of learning by increasing the on-site teacher training component of the Early Grade Reading Study (EGRS) in each province by the end of this year. Does the DBE plan to expand the EGRS currently running in the North West and Mpumalanga to the rest of the country in order to meet this commitment? If so, please furnish the Committee with the details?
2. What were the findings of the Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation's (DPME) Learner transport '*final evaluation report*'? Will this report be made available to the public? What are the next steps in this process?
3. Has the DBE, National Treasury and DPME completed the process of considering the feasibility of a learner transport conditional grant? If yes, what has been the outcome of this process?

**Programme 4: Planning, Information and Assessment**

4. What is the provincial breakdown of facilities built and services provided to schools per year from 2011/12 until 2018/19 through the Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI):
  - a. Number of new and replacement schools built
  - b. Number of schools provided with sanitation facilities
  - c. Number of schools where inappropriate sanitation facilities have been demolished
  - d. Number of schools electrified

- e. Number of schools provided with access to water
5. Has the slow payment of contractors by government contributed to cash flow problems experienced by contractors in the Eastern Cape and elsewhere?
  6. The DBE has stated that IAs are responsible for poor contractor management and the inability to identify poor performing contractors, thus resulting in the delay of meeting ASIDI's targets. What is the DBE doing to address these issues?
  7. When will the DBE publish and make the 2019 National Education Infrastructure Management Systems (NEIMS) Report, the most frequently updated report on school infrastructure, publicly available?
  8. When will the DBE publish the full Sanitation Appropriate for Education (SAFE) audit report? There is almost no publicly available information on the implementation of this programme.
  9. How many sanitation facilities have been provided through the SAFE initiative? Which schools have been provided with upgrades and in which provinces? When will this information be made publicly available?
  10. During the tabling of the education budget in Parliament earlier this year, Minister Motshekga mentioned plans to re-examine the delivery model for school infrastructure projects and explore alternative funding models. What do these plans entail? When will these plans be published for public comment? What are the timeframes attached to their implementation?
  11. When will the DBE gazette and make available for public comment the revised Minimum Norms and Standards for Public School Infrastructure (Norms and Standards)?

#### **Programme 5: Educational Enrichment Services**

12. When will the DBE make the monitoring and evaluation reports on the implementation of the National School Safety Framework (NSSF) for the 2016/17 and 2017/18 financial years publicly available? What were the main insights from this evaluation process?
13. How does the DBE plan to support those schools identified as unable to or struggling to implement the NSSF and in need of more resources to curb school violence?

#### **Financial Performance**

14. What has the DBE done differently in the current financial year (2019/20) to ensure that underspending registered for each programme in the 2018/19 financial year is reduced?
15. Programme 4 had the highest amount of underspending captured as R208.88 million, and largely due to infrastructure delays and disruptions in the Eastern Cape. As the province with the largest infrastructure backlog, how is the DBE intervening to ensure that delays do not hamper the provision of much needed infrastructure to schools across the province?