



## basic education

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Basic Education  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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Hon H H Malgas, MP  
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Portfolio Committee: Basic Education  
Parliament of the Republic of South Africa  
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Attention: Mr Llewellyn Brown

### **State of education in the Eastern Cape Provincial Education Department**

Honourable Member, first let me formally acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 09 March 2011. On same day I received your letter, my office called Mr Llewellyn Brown to inform him that a team from the Department of Basic Education, led by myself, would visit the Eastern Cape Provincial Education Department to deal with the rational, scope and implementation modalities of the section 100 (1)(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996. This has now been done, hence my response to your letter.

The Honourable Member may recall President Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma's response during the debate of his State of the Nation Address in the National Assembly on 17 February 2011 that he had said:

*"I have received a comprehensive briefing from the Minister and Deputy Minister of Basic Education who visited the province recently. I am seriously considering a sustainable intervention for the Eastern Cape. We are concerned that the contracts of over four thousand temporary teachers have been terminated, resulting in many schools facing shortages of teachers. The learning and teaching support materials have not been adequately delivered. This has led to the situation where there are learners without textbooks. The national school nutrition programme has collapsed, and scholar transport came to a total halt in many areas. As of now, the Triple T call to prioritize teachers, textbooks and time, cannot be implemented in the Eastern Cape. Any intervention will occur with the full knowledge, approval and cooperation of the Premier of the Eastern Cape and the MEC for Education in the province. It will be designed to assist the province to effectively administer education."*

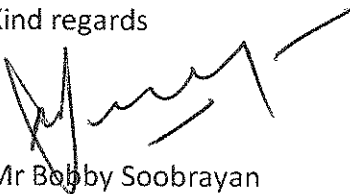
The Eastern Cape Provincial Education Department has over a number of years been experiencing a variety of challenges ranging from the lack of proper financial planning and management, lack of efficient and effective human resource management, and quantifiable incompetence in executing line function-related imperatives. All of these inefficiencies have resulted in a plethora of litigation, and have adversely impacted on the delivery of quality education in the Province of the Eastern Cape.

On Wednesday, 02 March 2011, having taken into account the history of the challenges facing the Eastern Cape Provincial Education Department and the interventions that had been introduced to normalize and stabilize the provincial education department, Cabinet resolved to invoke section 100 (1)(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 on the Eastern Cape Provincial Education Department. The intervention currently contemplated, will have two main pillars. The first pillar will focus on all operational, management, administrative and systemic challenges facing the Eastern Cape Provincial Education Department; and the second pillar will focus on the delivery of quality education, especially at the school level.

On 03 March 2011 the Minister of Basic Education met with the Premier of the Province of the Eastern Cape and the Member of the Executive responsible for Education in the Eastern Cape to inform them about Cabinet's decision. On the same day, the Minister also had a consultative meeting with the broad management of the Eastern Cape Provincial Education Department. It was after this meeting that the Minister of Basic Education, accompanied by the Deputy Minister: Basic Education and myself, in the presence of the Premier of the Eastern Cape, the Member of the Executive and Superintendent-General responsible for Education in that province, announced the section 100 (1)(b) intervention at a press conference.

As the President had directed, the Minister of Basic Education is currently in consultation with the Premier of the Province of the Eastern Cape and the Member responsible for Education in the Province of the Eastern Cape, with the view to developing an Agreement Protocol that will be signed by all Parties. When this has been done, my intervention team and I will arrange with your Office to come and brief the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education on all processes relating to the intervention in the Eastern Cape Provincial Education Department.

Kind regards



Mr Bobby Soobrayan  
Director-General: Basic Education

Date: 22/03/2011