



## **basic education**

Department:  
Basic Education  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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2017

By fax: 011 339 4311

Dear Ms Stein

### **LTSM DELIVERY FOR 2013 ACADEMIC YEAR IN LIMPOPO SCHOOLS**

Once more the DBE acknowledges receipt of your correspondence, 23 April 2013, and appreciates you raising concerns on critical issues of education.

The lack of systematic monitoring of textbook procurement is a known fact in the sector and has been raised at various levels, including the recent hearings of the SAHRC. As you would know, textbooks procurement and delivery has been a provincial responsibility over the years. The implementation of CAPS has highlighted the need for closer monitoring of the procurement and delivery in provinces to achieve our goal of universal coverage of one textbook per subject per learner by 2014.

The DBE has acknowledged the comments of the SAHRC on the matter and is exploring avenues to implement an electronic monitoring system before the procurement and delivery of textbooks and other LTSM for the 2014 school calendar year.

In the instance of Limpopo, there is no electronic monitoring system (EMS). The Department has been dependent on reporting of shortages through the process described in the previous communication to you. The province has however engaged in a process of a head count by an external entity. The data will be pulled into an electronic learner monitoring system which will be expanded to cater for all administrative facets down to the school level, inclusive of textbooks procurement and delivery.

In the absence of the EMS, shortages are being addressed as reported. It must however be noted that shortages are a result of learner migration which only surfaces in the first term of the school calendar year and which mitigates against a 100% coverage of LTSM for all learners.

The Department is, however, committed to providing the textbooks required and will once again engage in an exercise to establish these quantities through the structures of districts and circuits. We trust that we will be able to conclude this by 10 May 2013 and thereafter follow a process of providing top ups to the schools wherever necessary.

One of the biggest challenges in the system is the movement of learners. While we have shortages as a result of increased learner enrolment in a school, there are surpluses in another. The EMS will assist the department in tracking any surpluses for reallocation where needed. The system will further provide monitoring for retrieval on a year on year basis, which is critical to the process.

We have established the details of the reported shortages of textbooks and/or workbooks in the schools that you have identified. We have already delivered some of the shortages to these schools and are busy sourcing the outstanding books from surplus stock in the warehouse or from schools. If we are unable to do so, we will source these directly from the publishers. We will provide you with a report shortly.

It must be noted that grade 10 textbooks were not provided in the 2013 school calendar year. These were provided late in 2012 and it was not deemed necessary to provide as these textbooks would have been retrieved by the school at the end of 2012 for use in 2013.

The fact that the department has received reports of schools not retrieving textbooks at the end of the school year with the expectation that new textbooks will be provided at the start of each school year, has highlighted the need for the department to strengthen the textbook retrieval policy. We encourage all interested parties and stakeholder groups including Section 27 to support this drive to encourage all schools to institutionalise textbook retrieval.


We have confirmed that Selowe Primary School was not on the data set provided by the LDoE for the 2013 textbook deliveries. It has been established that this is *school under a tree* that featured in the news in 2012. Books have already been sent to the school and officials are liaising further to ensure that all textbooks are delivered.

The claim that schools are being threatened for reporting shortages by the DBE and Limpopo Department of Education officials is disturbing. We would appreciate the details of such occurrences so that this can be addressed. However, the Department has informed all officials of the process for reporting shortages and has been receiving reports of such. We are obviously concerned that schools would rather report shortages to Section 27 without reporting to the Department, as we are in the position to remedy shortfalls when they are reported. We would urge you to continue to forward the details of any shortages that are reported to you.

Thank you for forwarding the letter from the Junior Primary School, De Aar, in the Northern Cape. We have despatched the workbooks today and attach a letter sent to the principal of the school.

We urge you to continue to work with us to resolve any matters that arise.

Yours sincerely



MR RB SOOBRAYAN  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
DATE: 26/04/2013