



# LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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### **PLAN OF ACTION TO ADDRESS SCHOOL FURNITURE BACKLOGS IN LIMPOPO SCHOOLS**

#### **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Limpopo Department of Education (LDoE) has received numerous requests for the provision of school furniture from various sources, including but not limited to school governing bodies, school principals, Circuit Offices, etc. The requests were submitted in an uncoordinated fashion, such that the Department was not in a position to fully understand the extent of the school furniture shortages across the whole province.
- 1.2 In an attempt to address this challenge (uncoordinated submission of furniture requests), the LDoE Administrator directed that all the ten (10) education districts within the province should conduct thorough audits of school furniture backlogs and submit same to head Office for consolidation.
- 1.3 Districts have since, responded to this directive, and a consolidation process has been done. We need to indicate however, that Districts complained during a meeting with the Administrator (on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012) about the short notice given to them to undertake this exercise. It is not surprising therefore, that after the initial receipt of District submissions on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012, there are some Districts that are still submitting additional lists of schools that require school furniture up to today, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2012. The consolidation of the submitted lists in their entirety should thus be seen as work in progress.
- 1.4 The analysis of the District submissions indicates various trends with regard to school furniture shortages across the province. These trends can be summarised as follows (*inter alia*):
  - (a) there are schools that were provided with furniture some 6 or seven years ago, and the furniture has since been damaged (became obsolete) and need replacement. In such instances the entire school needs completely new furniture for the whole school population;

- (b) there are schools which were supplied with furniture in the past 3 or 4 years. Due to vandalism, some of the furniture got broken and need replacement. Such schools will need top ups;
- (c) there are schools which were provided with school furniture some 3 or 4 years back, and their enrolments have since increased. Such schools will need top ups; and
- (d) there are schools which were provided with furniture some few years back. At the time of the furniture delivery, the school did not have adequate accommodation (shortage of classrooms), and the furniture delivered was equivalent to the available classroom accommodation space. The Department has since built additional classrooms, and there is a need to furnish those new classrooms and/or new administration blocks.

## 2. AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO ADDRESS THE SCHOOL FURNITURE BACKLOG

- 2.1 The LDoE has put aside an amount of R30 million to address school furniture needs from its 2012/13 Equitable Share Budget. The Department could not utilise this budget earlier since the contracts for the supply of school furniture had expired.
- 2.2 The Administrator is currently in the process of exploring other legal procurement strategies with the Provincial Treasury to facilitate a fast-tracked procurement process for school furniture, using Limpopo School Furniture manufacturers within this financial year. This approach is very much similar to the approach adopted for the procurement of stationery, wherein manufacturers of stationery in the country were invited to a briefing session on the procurement and delivery of stationery. ON 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012, the manufacturers of school furniture exclusively in Limpopo were invited to such a briefing session; and all have shown their enthusiasm to be part of the solution in this regards. Because all manufacturers of school furniture were present at the briefing session, the Provincial Treasury will be asked to approve a deviation from the normal procurement processes in terms of section 16A6.4 of the Treasury Regulations. A closed tender process will be the route taken.
- 2.3 Arising from the meeting convened by the Deputy Minister with Section 27, the Limpopo Department of Education was requested to submit a consolidated list of school furniture needs in the province. **Annexure A: “Consolidated School furniture needs in Limpopo Schools as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012”**, was submitted by the LDoE, which was an extract from the submissions made by the Districts in their response to the Administrator’s directive for a thorough audit on school furniture shortages. The grand total estimated for supplying primary and secondary schools (as per District submissions) was R118 131 000. With the R30 million available in the 2012/12 Equitable Share Budget of the LDoE, the deficit was estimated at R88 131 000. This is the magnitude of assistance the LDoE tabled with the DBE. It must however be stated that the R40 million has been allocated for the 2013/14 financial year. In essence, after 01 April 2014, the deficit will stand at R48.131 million.

- 2.4 The DBE is presently working on providing top-up where provinces have shortfalls. Details of this will be made available in January 2013.

### 3. PRIORITISATION OF SCHOOL FURNITURE NEEDS IN OUR SCHOOLS

- 3.1 As indicated above, the analysis of the District submissions on school furniture needs have indicated various trends. We have used these various trends to prioritise the school furniture needs against the available resources (financial) currently available during this current financial year.
- 3.2 Our immediate priority is to target those schools where there are hundred (100) or more learners without seating accommodation; targeting those schools with the highest number of learners first on a sliding scale within the limits of the available budget. For example, if there are five schools, A, B, C, D and E with varying furniture shortages as follows: A = 450 (learners without furniture), B = 100, C = 600, D = 150, and E = 200, the prioritisation will be as from the highest to the lowest numbers of learners without school furniture as follows: C = 600; A = 450; E = 200; D = 150; B = 100.

**Table 1: Summary of the analysis of schools with more than 100 learners without school furniture in Limpopo**

#### PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Name of Education District	No. of Primary Schools with 100 and more learners without furniture	Number of Double Combination Desks Required	Estimate Cost to Acquire the required Double Combination Desks (in '000)	Number of Learners Affected by lack of Sitting Accomodation
1. Vhembe Education District	121	14'258	R13'545	28'516
2. Mopani Education District	53	7'584	R7'205	15'168
3. Lebowakgomo Education District	46	5'524	R5'250	11'048
4. Tzaneen Education District	51	5'472	R5'198	10'944
5. Sekhukhune Education District	44	5'193	R4'933	10'386
6. Capricorn Education District	40	4'786	R4'550	9'572
7. Waterberg Education District	27	3'302	R3'140	6'604
8. Riba Cross Education District	20	2'579	R2'450	5'158
9. Mogalakwena Education District	32	2'400 DCD 620 Chairs	R2'280 R62	2'309
10. Tshipise Sagole Education District	19	2'105	R1'750	4'210

<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>53'200 DCD</b>	<b>R50'301 (DCD)</b>	<b>106'400</b>
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## SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Name of Education District	No. of Secondary Schools with 100 and more learners without furniture	Number of Single Combination Desks Required	Estimate Cost to Acquire the required Single Combination Desks	Number of Learners Affected by lack of Sitting Accomodation
1. Vhembe Education District	87	23'330	R19'363	23'330
2. Capricorn Education District	42	12'318	R10'225	12'318
3. Sekhukhune Education District	46	9'528	R7'910	9'528
4. Tzaneen Education District	31	8'329	R9'913	8'329
5. Mopani Education District	34	8'255	R6'852	8'255
6. Lebowakgomo Education District	37	7'497	R6'222	7'497
7. Tshipise Sagole Education District	22	5'996	R4'980	5'996
8. Riba Cross Education District	25	5'154	R4'278	5'154
9. Waterberg Education District	23	4'913	R4'077	4'913
10. Mogalakwena Education District	6	2'309	R1'920	2'309
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>87'629</b>	<b>R67'830</b>	<b>87'629</b>

### 4. PLAN OF ACTION OF THE LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN ADDRESSING FURNITURE SHORTAGES AT THE IDENTIFIED SCHOOLS (SEE ANNEXURE A)

- 4.1 The following summarised plan of action will guide the procurement and delivery processes of school furniture to the identified primary and secondary schools in Limpopo. The school furniture burden will further be alleviated with the R40 million allocation earmarked for the 2013/14 financial year.

Top-ups that the DBE is currently working on to augment Provincial shortfalls, will go a long way in reducing and ultimately eradicating the chronic school furniture backlog in Limpopo.

ACTIVITY	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBILITY	OUTCOMES
Meeting with District Officials to Understand the Extent of the	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2012	Administrator	Shared ideas between the Administrator and District Officials

Challenge(School furniture Shortages)			
Meeting with All Limpopo Based School Furniture Manufactures to get their buy in the urgency of the matter (school furniture provisioning)	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2012	Administrator	Commitment from the School Furniture manufacturers to work together with the Department in addressing the challenge
Conduction of School Furniture Audits in Districts	23 <sup>rd</sup> November to 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2012	District Senior Managers	District School Furniture needs is available
Submission of District Furniture Needs to the Provincial Department of Education	By 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2012	District Senior Managers	District School Furniture needs Submitted to Head Office.
Capturing and Consolidation of District School Furniture Audit Reports	3 <sup>rd</sup> December – 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2012	Rapule Matsane: Manager Infrastructure Planning (LDoE)	Consolidated Provincial School Furniture Backlog Report
Request permission from Treasury for SCM Deviation for Procurement of School Furniture through the Limpopo Based Manufacturers	14 <sup>th</sup> - 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2012	Administrator / SCM	Approval for Fast tracking school furniture delivery to schools
Request for quotations from Limpopo School furniture manufacturers	21 <sup>st</sup> December 2012 to 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2013	SCM	Fast-tracking school furniture delivery to schools
Site Visits to School Furniture Manufacturers to evaluate functionality, capacity, etc.	07 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2013	SCM	Quotes are evaluated to determine capable Manufacturers
Awarding of Contracts to Successful School Furniture Manufactures in Limpopo	16 <sup>th</sup> January 2013	Administrator	Signed Contract between the Administrator and Service Providers
Delivery of School Furniture begins	30 <sup>th</sup> January 2013	Service Providers	Learners have sitting accommodation

4.2 We trust that the approach taken by the Limpopo Department of Education, with the support and assistance from the Department of Basic Education, will fast-track the procurement and delivery of school furniture to needy schools.

..... Date.....  
**Mr. MC Matthews**  
**Administrator**  
**Limpopo Department of Education**