

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 474

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 04/2014)

Ms H S Boshoff (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

- (1) How much of the conditional grant funding ring-fenced to provide (a) resources and (b) teacher training to support the National Policy on HIV/AIDS was (i) allocated to and (ii) utilised by each province in the 2013-14 financial year;
- (2) whether any province(s) underspent their conditional grant; if so, (a) which province(s), (b) in respect of each specified case, in which years and (c) what was the (i) extent of and (ii) reason(s) for the under-expenditure? NW553E

Response:

- 1) Provincial allocation and expenditure on resources and educator training to support the National Policy on HIV and AIDS is provided in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Provincial allocation and expenditure on LTSM and educator training for the HIV and AIDS Life Skills Education Programme for 2013/14, per province

Province	Funds allocated		Spent by provinces	
	Learning and Teaching Support Material (LTSM)	Educator Training	LTSM	Educator Training
Eastern Cape	R3 181m	R8 724m	R2 286m	R3 605m
Free State	R2 237m	R2 013m	R2 229m	R2 055m
Gauteng	R3 903m	R6 002m	R4 209m	R10 797m
KwaZulu-Natal	R16 800m	R2 500m	R17 969m	R2 500m
Limpopo	R12 841m	R3 902m	R10 905m	R293 000
Mpumalanga	R2 706m	R3 942m	R2 706m	R3 942m
Northern Cape	R570 000	R820 495	R552 000	R833 000

North West	R2 418m	R3 224m	R3 224m	R2 418m
Western Cape	R4 586m	R2 293m	R1 632m	R6 154m
Total	R49 241m	33 420 260	R45 712m	R32 597m

- 2) During **2012-2013 financial year** under-expenditure was noted in a number of provinces. These included expenditure for Free State (79.34%), Gauteng (66.99%) Limpopo (41.99%) and Western Cape (95.67%) provinces.

Expenditure for **Free State** province was low due to non-approval of activities in the 2012-2013 business plans. In addition, the educator training planned for 18-19 February 2013 did not take place, as the service provider was not paid due to provincial logistical challenges. The province was requested to submit reasons for non-payment of services before the training date and the measure put in place to avoid future interruption of activities.

The first tranche for **Gauteng** province was withheld due to utilising the HIV and AIDS Life Skills Education funds on non-grant related activities (2009-2010 and 2010-2011). The withheld tranche was released together with the second tranche in August 2012. The province was supported to put measures in place to minimise the risk of spending grant funds on non-grant-related activities and to expedite implementation of activities in the approved business plan.

In this regard, four after care centres were visited in Johannesburg Central, Johannesburg South, as well as Tshwane North districts to verify that the equipment purchased was utilised for the benefit of learners. In addition, a meeting was held with Gauteng Life Skills officials to discuss corrective measures on the utilisation of the HIV and AIDS Life Skills Education grant (on 19 November 2012). The outcome of the meeting was that the concept of aftercare centres is good if these can be sustained to support the educational needs of vulnerable learners. The province was advised to closely monitor aftercare centres such that they address the learners' educational needs. However, conditional grant funds may not be utilised for non-grant related activities. The province was advised to keep an inventory of all equipment purchased and keep these in a safe place.

Late approval of bid specifications in the **Western Cape and Limpopo** provinces to conduct training activities, especially during the first, second and third quarters delayed training, distribution of LTSM and First Aid Kits to schools and impacted negatively on spending the grant funds. In addition, delayed payment of invoices for activities that were conducted between June and December 2012 had an impact on the final spending of the grant, specifically in **Limpopo** province. Interventions such as the letter from DDG/S and DG assisted in getting the province to award bids. The province submitted proof of commitments (most of these awarded during February/March 2013) for DBE to facilitate the request for a rollover from National Treasury. Expenditure for the **Western Cape** province improved significantly during the 2013-2014 financial year. Expenditure in Free State, Gauteng and Western Cape provinces improved during the 2013-2014 financial year.

KwaZulu-Natal province 2013-2014:

The fourth tranche for KwaZulu-Natal was withheld due to under-expenditure. During that time, DBE (Health Promotion and Financial Services Directorates) communicated with the province to discuss under-expenditure on the HIV and AIDS Life Skills Education Programme. The province indicated that delivery of LTSM and First Aid Kit refills was underway. There were deliveries that were carried out to districts. However, the province could not pay for all invoices, as the service providers were only paid upon delivery of goods and submission of delivery notes to the Department. In this regard, provincial expenditure (43.11%) as at the end of March 2014 remained very low. The province reported that payment of some goods was effected at the end of March and April 2014. However, not all invoices were paid by 31 March 2014. The province agreed with DBE that the withheld tranche may be kept at DBE to request a rollover from National Treasury to honour commitments in the 2014-2015 financial year business plan. The roll over request has since been submitted to Financial Services Directorate in DBE.

Limpopo province 2013-2014:

Expenditure as at 31 March 2014 for Limpopo province (44.42%) was also very low. The province reported that under-expenditure was due to late and non-approval of bid specifications to conduct training activities for educators. This was due to the fact that the Head of Administration did not approve training that was due to be held at commercial venues. The province reported that non-commercial venues available in the province are not conducive to accommodate educators for training. In addition, non-commercial venues in Limpopo province are schools. Educators had to be trained in-house due to the mostly rural nature of residential areas, and therefore irregular transport for educators to attend training. In addition, to-and-fro travel for educators to attend training would have been too costly. Hence the option to use commercial venues.