

MEC's Plan to Minister on the manner in which the Regulations Relating to the Minimum Uniform Norms and Standards for Public School Infrastructures are to be implemented

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**GAUTENG PROVINCE**

EDUCATION  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **MEC'S PLAN TO MINISTER ON THE MANNER IN WHICH THE REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE MINIMUM UNIFORM NORMS AND STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURES ARE TO BE IMPLEMENTED**

### **1. BACKGROUND:**

In March 2014 the Gauteng Department of Education embarked on a large scale data collection process that was specifically focussed on data relating to the Regulations Relating to the Minimum Uniform Norms and Standards for Public School Infrastructure (the Regulations).

Although data was collected from both ordinary and special schools, only the data for ordinary schools was analysed as the Regulations focusses on ordinary primary and secondary schools.

1 755 of the 2 070 public ordinary schools returned the survey forms, a return rate of 85%. When the analysis was done the data was extrapolated to 2 070 schools.

This data was used to determine the backlogs against the target periods as per the Regulations. The backlogs were put into a hypothetical 17 year programme with monetary values which resulted in a total overall cost of approximately R159 billion. Based on a hypothetical budget forecast of R55 billion over the same 17 year period, the department would require an additional R104 billion to address the identified backlogs. It therefore stands to reason that a substantial portion of the backlogs cannot be addressed within the 17 year target period, unless the required funding is made available. It must however be noted that even in the event of additional funds being made available, it is an open question whether the building industry will have the capacity to accommodate the nation-wide demand to deliver within the given time frames. The targets for the following categories will be achieved within the stipulated time frames: Insufficient water, insufficient electricity, and fencing.

## 2. DATA ANALYSIS AND BACKLOG DETERMINATION:

### 2.1 UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS:

The funding that is available in each financial year will in the main determine the number of projects that can be implemented in each financial year and therefore by implication the time frames for eradication of the backlogs. The table below indicates the funding required to address the backlogs. The funding required was escalated by 7% per annum which is in line with the escalation in building costs over the past 3 years. The projected funding available for the 17 year period has been escalated by 5% from year 4 as the base year.

#### ESTIMATED COST PER YEAR

YEAR	FUNDING REQUIRED (With escalation)	FUNDING AVAILABLE (PROJECTED)	VARIANCE
Year 1	R 2,176,047,715	R 1,690,585,000	
Year 2	R 3,132,468,295	R 2,154,624,000	
Year 3	R 2,571,782,914	R 2,217,346,000	
Year 4	R 2,976,885,504	R 2,278,601,000	
Year 5	R 2,777,393,234	R 2,392,531,050	
Year 6	R 2,697,412,699	R 2,512,157,603	
Year 7	R 3,044,982,359	R 2,637,765,483	
Year 8	R 3,329,644,094	R 2,769,653,757	
Year 9	R 3,449,370,438	R 2,908,136,445	
Year 10	R 3,485,670,131	R 3,053,543,267	
Year 11	R 3,375,051,419	R 3,206,220,430	
Year 12	R 3,760,160,149	R 3,366,531,452	
Year 13	R 3,528,598,650	R 3,534,858,024	
Year 14	R 3,713,788,031	R 3,711,600,925	
Year 15	R 4,465,582,797	R 3,897,180,972	
Year 16	R 4,638,014,791	R 4,092,040,020	
Year 17	R 4,900,901,800	R 4,296,642,021	
Year 18 and beyond	R 97,560,339,466	R 4,511,474,122	
15% non return	R 3,420,626,080		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>R 159,004,720,567</b>	<b>R 55,231,491,571</b>	<b>R 103,773,228,996</b>

### 2.2 THREE (3) YEAR TARGET

#### 2.2.1 Regulation 3(a): Schools built entirely from mud, asbestos, wood and metal

There are no schools built entirely from mud, wood or metal in Gauteng. There are however 20 schools that consists entirely/ predominantly of asbestos.

Only 6 of the 20 schools will be replaced/ completed within the stipulated 3 year time frame.

When the Regulations were published in November 2013, the 2014/15 project list was already finalised and no new projects could be added to the list. When the 2015/16 project list was



compiled, only 6 of the 20 schools could be included in the programme because of contractual commitments flowing over from 2014/15 financial year. These 6 schools will be completed in the 2016/17 financial year.

The remaining 14 schools can therefore only enter the planning and construction phase in 2016/17 to be completed in 2017/18 which falls outside the 3 year target period.

2.2.2 Regulation 3(b): Schools that do not have any access to any form of power supply, water supply and sanitation

All schools have access to some form of water and sanitation. There are 2 schools without electricity. These schools have previously been provided with solar electricity through the ASIDI programme but due to the vulnerability of the school resulting from the area in which the schools are situated, the solar systems at both schools were stolen a few weeks after the installation. The schools will now be provided with generators that can be locked up after school. The cost of the generators will not be factored into the norms and standards backlog eradication plan.

2.3 SEVEN (7) YEAR TARGET

Regulation 3(c): Prioritise norms and standards relating to availability of classrooms, electricity, water, sanitation, electronic connectivity and perimeter security.

2.3.1 Availability of classrooms: Ordinary classrooms, grade R classrooms and new schools:

Ordinary classrooms

There is a shortage of 1 499 classrooms at existing schools. 126 of these classrooms can be built within the 7 year target period given the indicative budget allocation. Of the remaining 1 373 classrooms, 625 can be built by year 17. The remaining 748 can therefore only be built after the 17th year.

Grade R classrooms

The number of grade R classrooms required is calculated on a learner: classroom ratio of 30:1. Since a primary school must accommodate more or less an equal number of grade R and grade 1 learners, the current grade 1 enrolment at primary schools was used to determine the number of grade R learners and by implication the number of grade R classrooms required per primary school in the province.

There is a shortage of 3 467 grade R classrooms at existing schools. 614 of these classrooms can be built within the 7 year target period given the indicative budget allocation. Of the remaining 2 853 classrooms, 1 452 can be built by year 17. The remaining 1 401 can therefore only be built after the 17th year.

New schools:

Although New Schools is located under the 17 year period in the template it is directly linked to the availability of classrooms and overcrowding at existing schools, hence it is discussed in this paragraph.

There is a shortage of 159 new schools in the province. 60 schools can be built within the 7 year target period given the indicative budget allocation. Of the remaining 99 schools, 43 can only be built by year 17. The remaining 56 can only be built after the 17<sup>th</sup> year.

2.3.2 Availability of water: Schools without sufficient water

All schools are provided with some form of water supply in various forms. Of the 2 072 schools, 54 schools are reliant on boreholes. The remaining 2 018 all have municipal connections. It must however be noted that sporadic water pressure problems experienced in certain municipal areas could result in inadequate water supply during specific periods.

513 schools have been identified as schools that do not have a sufficient number of drinking fountains and will be provided with additional fountains in the 7 year period.

2.3.3 Availability of electricity: Schools partially without electricity

210 schools have been identified to be in need of additional electrical reticulation and will be addressed within the 7 year period.

2.3.4 Availability of sanitation: Schools with insufficient toilets:

A shortage of 726 toilets have been identified at various schools. 249 toilets will be provided within the 7 year target period. The remaining 477 will be provided over the next 3 years.

2.3.5 Availability of electronic connectivity

98 schools reported insufficient electronic connectivity. These schools will be provided with adequate connectivity within the 7 year period.

2.3.6 Availability of perimeter security:

265 schools do not have perimeter fencing that comply with the Regulations. These schools will be provided with new fences within the 7 year target period.

## 2.4 TEN (10) YEAR TARGET

### 2.4.1 SPECIALIST CLASSROOMS/ FACILITIES BACKLOGS:

#### 2.4.1.1 Libraries/ Media Centres

484 schools do not have libraries. 286 libraries will be delivered within the 10 year period whilst the remaining 198 will be delivered over the next 5 years.

#### 2.4.1.2 Laboratories

Whilst the Regulations require 1 science laboratory per school, the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) provides 1 science laboratory for a primary school and 1 physical sciences and 1 life sciences laboratory for secondary schools. Based on this, 1 319 schools do not have the

required number of laboratories. 442 laboratories will be provided in the 10 year period. Of the remaining 817 laboratories, 534 can be built by year 17. The remaining 283 can therefore only be built after the 17th year.

## 2.5 2030 TARGET

The table below indicates the backlogs and what can be achieved within the 17 year target period. In all cases the projected budget will be inadequate to address the backlogs within the required period as is shown in the column illustrating the Provincial gap.

	Provincial Total Backlog	Total Planned for 17 year period	Provincial Gap
Inappropriate Spaces (Partial)	2 102	2009	93
Nutrition centres (Quintile 1, 2 and 3 schools only)	1 048	910	138
Multi-purpose classrooms	1 158	661	497
Administration areas	520	296	224
Computer room	417	238	179
Physical Education - Sport and Recreation Areas	1 707	608	1 099



### 3. SUMMARY OF BACKLOGS:

The table below provides a summary of the backlogs per target period as well as what can be achieved within the stipulated periods:


BACKLOGS PER TARGET PERIOD			
3 YEAR TARGET			
Category	Backlog	In target period	Outside target period
Asbestos schools to be replaced	20	6	14
7 YEAR TARGET			
Category	Backlog	In target period	Outside target period
New schools	159	60	99
Additional classrooms at existing schools	1499	126	1373
Grade R classrooms	3467	614	2853
Upgrading of water provisioning	513	513	0
Upgrading of electricity	210	210	0
Toilets additions	726	249	477
Improved electronic connectivity	98	98	0
Perimeter security (fencing)	265	265	0
10 YEAR TARGET			
Category	Backlog	In target period	Outside target period
Libraries	484	286	198
Science laboratories	1319	442	817
2030 TARGET			
Category	Backlog	In target period	Outside target period
Inappropriate spaces (Partial)	2,102	2,009	93
Nutrition Centres	1,048	910	138
Multipurpose classrooms	1,158	661	497
Administration Areas	520	296	224
Computer rooms	417	238	179
Area For Physical Education, Sport And Recreation	1,707	608	1,099
Rehabilitation and Refurbishment	1,706	428	1,278

**4. CAPACITY OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY TO IMPLEMENT**

As previously indicated the relative capacity of the SA building industry could, in addition to the financial resources required, also be a crucial determining factor in the eradication of infrastructure backlogs in the education sector within the stipulated time frames. The congestion of such a huge number of infrastructure projects within the stipulated time frames will no doubt put the industry under severe strain as far as the availability of materials, built environment skills etc. are concerned.

**5. CONCLUSION**

Despite the fact that different hypothetical assumptions could result in different outcomes, it is clear that the department is faced with an enormous challenge with regard to the implementation of the Regulations Relating to the Minimum Norms and Standards for Public School infrastructure.



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