



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NON-COMPULSORY BRIEFING SESSION – MS TEAMS

DATE: 24 MARCH 2026

TIME: 10:00 to 11:00

TENDER NUMBER DBE209

DESCRIPTION: **APPOINTMENT OF A SERVICE PROVIDER OR CONSORTIUM OF SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR PROVISIONING OF SERVICES ON THE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT NUTRITION SUPPORT PROGRAMME OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS.**

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Ms N Metula welcomed everyone and introduced the Department of Basic Education's (DBE) team; Ms M Ntloana, Ms L Selloe, Ms N Banda and Ms T Skosana (Supply Chain Management) and Ms Z Mnguni (Project Manager). Bidders were requested to introduce themselves in the Chat.

2. BID PRESENTATION

It was emphasised that no decisions or commitments would be made during the session, and that no alterations should be made to the Annexures.

Presentation of the Terms of Reference (TORs) and Annexure B by Ms Mnguni.

3. SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT (SCM) MATTERS

The SCM indicated that:

- a. The briefing session is non-compulsory as indicated in the request for proposal. Non-attendance of the briefing session does not lead to disqualification of the bidders' proposal/s.
- b. The tender is closing on **9 April 2026**. A bid which is submitted after 11:00 will be regarded as late and will not be accepted by the DBE. The tender box is situated on the right-hand side before the main building entrance to the reception and is clearly marked "TENDER BOX". Regarding the submission of larger documents/proposals that cannot fit in the tender box, the bidder is required to request the reception to call the SCM officials, who will register the document/s in the Register of submitted tender documents.
- c. Bids must be submitted as hard copies; the DBE would not accept electronic/ emailed submissions. One original bid proposal would suffice; there is no need to submit a copy of it as well.
- d. The discussions during the Briefing Session and the questions raised after the Briefing Session will be consolidated and uploaded to the Department's website (www.education.gov.za), and to the eTender Portal (www.etenders.gov.za) which were the platforms on which the bid was advertised.
- e. Bidders must:
 - read the Mandatory Requirements carefully as listed in the TORs and ensure that they respond as required.
 - fully complete, sign, and submit (with their bid document) the SBD forms which were uploaded with this tender by the Department.
- f. Alteration or retyping of the SBD forms was not allowed and would result in the disqualification of the submitted bid.

4. QUESTIONS RAISED AND RESPONSES PROVIDED (during the briefing session)

No.	Question	Response/ Clarity
1.	Is this a national project which will be piloted in the Eastern Cape before rolling it out nationally?	This project is a national initiative which will be implemented at provincial level, with the pilot set to begin in the Eastern Cape Province before national rollout.

2.	How is the Department intending to rollout this pilot nationally, if those intentions exist?	A national rollout will be considered following the completion of a three-year pilot phase, during which findings and key lessons will be evaluated. The decision to proceed with the rollout will be informed by the outcomes of the pilot phase.
3.	In case of a consortium or joint venture, what are the DBE requirements? For example, if five bidders come together as a consortium, will the Department require BBEE Certificates and Tax Clearance Certificates, or they should be combined?	The Department of Basic Education (DBE) does not require a B-BBEE certificate. Instead, it assesses Specific Goals, as outlined in the Terms of Reference (TORs), which include ownership by black people, women, youth, and persons with disabilities. This information is sourced from the Central Supplier Database (CSD) report. Bidders should therefore focus on the CSD report to confirm company ownership and provide the relevant details required for evaluating Specific Goals. In terms of tax compliance, each company is assigned a unique supplier number on the CSD report, through which its tax compliance status can be verified.
4.	How will SMME's be considered for this tender? A concern was raised that with a tender of this magnitude where the DBE is looking for one service provider with 3000m2 warehousing facility also looking at upscaling SMMEs within different districts, is a tough call. It was suggested that it would be more meaningful in terms of upskilling the developing SMMEs that the 3000m2 be shared amongst different service providers (e.g a panel of service providers) instead of one service provider.	In the Terms of Reference (TORs), under Local Economic Development (LED), bidders are required to clearly outline how they will collaborate with small businesses in the implementation of the project, particularly those based in the Eastern Cape Province. This includes demonstrating how such businesses will benefit from the project. Following consultations with provinces and the NSNP unit, it has been confirmed that the minimum required warehouse size of 3000m² remains unchanged, as it is aligned to the operational requirements for provincial-level service delivery. It was noted that many of the warehouse facilities referenced by bidders, typically ranging between 1500–2000m², are generally for servicing individual districts and are therefore not adequate for the scale required under this bid. In accordance with the Scope of Work, the Department requires a central warehouse facility that can accommodate integrated operations, including storage, picking and packing, prior to dispatch to district hubs. The facility must further support a centralised tracking system to ensure

		efficient coordination, accountability, and reporting across the province. Bidders who do not independently meet this requirement may enter a consortium or partnership with entities that have the necessary infrastructure and capacity.
5.	Where a company is supplying commodities (as per the Terms of Reference), but not food related and is willing to go into an agreement with other companies that are in the supply of food commodities, is the Food Acceptability Certificate still required from that tenderer who is in the supply of other commodities except food or the Food Acceptability Certificate is needed for the warehouses and sub warehouses?	The required certificate applies to warehouses and small hubs responsible for the handling and preparation of food, and it can be obtained from the relevant local municipality.
6.	Considering the magnitude of this project, small businesses will have to partner with big businesses to be considered and go through the 70 points required. Therefore, the time allocated is inadequate.	The issue of inadequate time before the tender closes would be considered internally, and a written response will be provided, including a proposed date if applicable.
7.	Since the project is piloted in the Eastern Cape Province, how is the Department going to deal with the local dynamics? Would bidders be given equal standing considering that there are also points for locality.	Regarding locality, bidders are not restricted from participating, provided they are able to establish the necessary operations within the Eastern Cape Province and ensure the uninterrupted delivery of meals to learners.
8.	Will small businesses who do not have the required 3,000m² warehouse have to be sub-contracted by big companies?	The 3,000m² central warehouse required is based on the standards of National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) warehouses, which are designed to have sufficient storage capacity and operational capability for school nutrition. It should be noted that the number of Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres differs from the total number of schools in the country. The project is expected to service a large number of centres, particularly once it is rolled out nationally. For the initial 1,035 centres to be serviced, bidders are required to have a central warehouse in place, as the DBE requires consolidated reporting and information across all smaller hubs operated by the bidder. This matter will, however, be subject to further internal consultation (Refer to Questions raised after the briefing session and Responses - Question number 13).

	Should the 3,000m² central warehouse be based in the Eastern Cape Province or it could be anywhere in the country?	DBE did not specify that the central warehouse must be located within the Eastern Cape Province. Bidders based in other provinces are not precluded from participating, provided they can deliver the required services. Bidders must clearly demonstrate in their submissions that their logistics and transport systems are capable of ensuring timely, efficient, seamless, and reliable delivery to the Eastern Cape Province without disruption.
9.	Is the comfort letter going to be required later once the bidder has been shortlisted or is it required now with the bid submission?	In terms of paragraph 12.1 of the Terms of Reference (TORs), the comfort letter will only be required from the recommended bidder and is not a mandatory submission at the bidding stage. The recommended bidder will be given 14 days to provide the letter, failing which they will be disqualified.
10.	- On the Functionality Evaluation, if bidders are submitting as a consortium, should all members of the consortium fulfil the required experience (for example the 30 points functionality), or bidders in the consortium can fulfil different areas of the Functionality Criteria? - The understanding was that companies form a consortium/ joint venture because each company does not have capacity to meet the entire requirements. For instance, even if I may have five years' experience in warehousing, distribution or	- Under the Mandatory Requirements, paragraph 7.1.1, bidders are required to submit a Company Profile. "In the case of a consortium/ joint venture a profile of each company must be submitted". A Company Profile of each company must state that the bidder has five years of experience in sourcing, procuring, picking and packaging, and distribution of goods". Therefore, this means each of the companies in the consortium ought to have the experience of all items listed. Whether the bidder would be doing different roles amongst themselves based on what they decide upon but should be able to demonstrate the experience they have in their Company Profile as a company within the consortium. However, for the purposes of the Functionality Evaluation, all members of a joint venture or consortium will be assessed collectively as a single proposal. - The understanding would be correct if it was not mentioned in the Mandatory Requirements that each of the Company Profiles was supposed to show the five years' experience in all these areas (sourcing, procuring,

	logistics there may be a part where I am short of in terms of the mandatory and functionality requirements, that was the understanding of the previous question (<u>question above</u>) relating to the points allocation system. If a bidder has five years' experience in terms of the 30 points required, the bidder will tick the box as one of the companies within the joint venture or the consortium. If the bidder does not have points on may be financial capacity part, they will obviously be scored "0" but if other partners in the consortium tick the box for all the points, then it guarantees that the consortium will claim those points as per requirement. Clarity was sought on both Mandatory and Functionality requirements.	picking and packaging, and distribution of goods). However, in these TORs, the Mandatory Requirements are written such that each one of the joint venture partners must show that they have sourced, procured, picked and packed, warehoused and distributed the goods.
11.	Are bidders not going to be evaluated based on the Eastern Cape as a pilot project? Or will they be evaluated based on functionality at national level, for now? will the evaluation be confined to the Eastern Cape Province where the pilot will be taking place?	This bid is facilitated by the National Department of Basic Education for a pilot at the Eastern Cape province. Yes, the bidders will be evaluated as per the published Terms of Reference for ECD Nutrition - Eastern Cape pilot.
12.	Will the DBE accept both bank guarantees and sureties to the value of what is required from any other institution other than banks?	According to the conditions of the tender, the letter must be issued by a bank or any accredited financial institution.
13.	In terms of project experience, does the DBE require the submission of previously completed projects or will currently running projects be considered as the three projects to demonstrate capacity?	After consultation the paragraph was reviewed, refer to paragraph 7.1.6.2 of the TORs stating that "The duration of the project, must be clearly stated. Each project must have been implemented for a minimum period of twelve (12) consecutive months, (whether completed or still running), to demonstrate operational capability".
14.	How many bidders is the Department looking to appoint on this tender? Would the appointed bidder for this pilot project be allowed to participate in the project's national roll out?	Only one service provider or joint venture/consortium will be selected for appointment.
15.	What is the Department's payment plan in terms of the duration, how long will it take for the successful bidder to be paid?	The Department will process payments within 30 days of receipt of valid invoices.
16.	Will bidders be disqualified for submitting reference letters of projects that are presently running and not yet completed but have been running for years, some more than 10 years?	After consultation the paragraph was reviewed, refer to paragraph 7.1.6.2 of the TORs stating that "The duration of the project, must be clearly stated. Each project must have been implemented for a minimum period of twelve (12) consecutive

		months, (whether completed or still running), to demonstrate operational capability”.
17.	In a case where a bidder has the credit facility to the value of R30 million with an institution such as Tiger Brands and not a bank or accredited financing house, will it be equivalent to show financial capacity to deliver on this kind of a project or additional to that a bank guarantee to the value of R30 million would still be required?	The Department requires a bank guarantee due to the complexity of this project, which extends beyond food. While the Tiger Brands credit facility primarily covers food production, this project also involves substantial logistical components, including storage and other operational requirements. Therefore, a bank guarantee is required.
18.	The service provider or consortium that will be appointed now for the pilot, will they also be considered for the national roll-out?	Yes, bidders who meet all requirements and submit compliant bids on time, will be considered.

5. CONCLUSION

Bidders were reminded:

- That they could send ask questions until at least twelve (12) days before the closing date. Questions must be sent to tenders@dbe.gov.za
- To be mindful of the tender closing date as published.

Ms Metula thanked the Bidders for attending the briefing session and wished them well with the preparation and submission of their bids.

The session was adjourned.

6. QUESTIONS RAISED AFTER THE BRIEFING SESSION AND RESPONSES

No.	Question	Response/ Clarity
1.	Request for Extension of Closing Date Given the scale of the project, the extensive mandatory documentation, and the need to secure multiple compliance certificates and partner commitments, we kindly request an extension of the bid closing date. (2 weeks extension).	The tender closing date was extended to 2 November 2026 at 11:00.

	This will ensure that all bidders can submit complete, accurate, and compliant proposals.	
2.	Mandatory Requirement 7.1.8 – Certificate of Acceptability (R638) Clause 7.1.8 states: “The Bidder/s must submit Certificate of Acceptability as per Regulation R638 for all warehouses and hubs.” We request confirmation that: • The Certificate of Acceptability (COA) may be submitted after award, as COAs are issued only for operational food premises, and • Warehouses and hubs for this project will only be finalised after contract award, making pre award certification impractical. We are able to submit proof of application, inspection booking, or commitment letters if required.	The DBE confirms that the Certificate of Acceptability (COA) will not be required at the bidding stage as a Mandatory Requirement. However, bidders must demonstrate their ability to obtain the COA without delay. In this regard, bidders are required to submit, together with their bids, proof of application for the COA and/or a written undertaking confirming that the certificate will be secured within the prescribed timeframe. The recommended Bidder must submit Certificate of Acceptability as per Regulation R638 for all warehouses and hubs within 21 days after recommendation has been made. This certificate is a mandatory legal document in South Africa for any business handling, preparing, or transporting food. It verifies compliance with food safety and hygiene standards, issued by local municipality. Failure to submit the Certificate of Acceptability within 21 working days of request from the DBE will result in the disqualification of the recommended bidder Please refer to amended TORs and the Addendum.
3.	Mandatory Requirement 7.1.7 – Proof of Comprehensive Insurance Clause 7.1.7 requires: “Proof that the warehouse is comprehensively insured against theft, fire, and other damages...” We request confirmation that: • Full insurance cover may be submitted after award, once the final warehouse locations are confirmed. • For bidding purposes, we may submit a letter of intent or quotation from an accredited Financial Services Provider.	The DBE confirms that proof of active warehouse insurance will not be required at the bidding stage. However, bidders are required to demonstrate that the warehouse is insurable and that insurance cover can be secured without delay. In this regard, bidders must submit, together with their bids, proof of insurability, such as a letter of intent, quotation, or confirmation from a registered insurer or broker indicating that the warehouse can be insured. The recommended Bidder must provide proof within 14 working days of DBE’s request that the warehouse is comprehensively insured against theft, fire, and other damage of goods from an accredited Financial Services Provider. If comprehensive insurance is not yet in place, the recommended bidder must

		submit written confirmation from the warehouse owner or an accredited Financial Services Provider confirming that comprehensive insurance will be in place before the commencement of contract implementation. Failure to provide the required insurance within the stipulated timeframe will result in the disqualification of the recommended bidder Please refer to amended TORs and the Addendum.
4.	Weekly Menu / Feeding Schedule The tender refers to an “approved menu” in Annexure B, but no weekly arrangement or feeding schedule is provided. To ensure accurate costing and compliance, we request DBE to provide: • The weekly menu rotation, or • Confirmation that bidders may propose a compliant weekly schedule based on the listed meals. This is essential for procurement planning, logistics, and pricing.	The weekly menu has been attached.
5.	Split / Separated Pricing Annexure B requires a total price, but the tender does not specify whether DBE requires: • A per item price, • A per centre price, • A per child price, or • A consolidated total only. We request clarification on the required pricing format, including whether DBE requires: • Separate pricing for dry goods vs fresh produce • Separate pricing per district or per hub • A breakdown of logistics, warehousing, and administration costs. This will ensure uniformity across all bidders.	The spreadsheet has been revised. Bidders are required to provide an all-inclusive price per child, per day, based on the daily menu, as well as the total price per week and per year. The price must be fully inclusive. Bidders should therefore not provide separate cost breakdowns for logistics, warehousing, administration, fresh and dry goods, or costs per district.

6.	Price Adjustment Formula for Multi-Year Contract Clause 7.1.10 requires a fixed price for the full 3-year duration. Given the volatility of food prices, fuel, and logistics costs, we request DBE to confirm: • Whether a price adjustment formula (e.g., CPI, food inflation index, diesel index) will be permitted, or • Whether DBE intends to issue annual price adjustment directives, or • Whether the price must remain strictly fixed for all 36 months. This clarification is critical for financial risk management.	Prices will be adjusted annually, over a period of two years. Please refer to the amended TORs and the Addendum.
7.	Clarification Request: Pre-Payment / Advance Payment Terms We request DBE to consider the feasibility of pre-payment or partial advance payment, given the nature and scale of the project. The tender requires the service provider to: • Procure all dry goods and fresh produce upfront • Secure and equip warehouses and hubs • Engage SMMEs across districts • Manage packaging, distribution, and logistics for 26,620 children • Maintain stock levels for 264 feeding days per annum These activities require significant upfront capital, and the availability of funds is paramount to ensure uninterrupted service delivery. We therefore request DBE to advise whether: 1. Pre payment, 2. Advance payment guarantees may be considered for this project, subject to the necessary Treasury compliant safeguards (e.g., performance guarantees, advance payment guarantees, or surety instruments).	Bidders are required to provide the goods and services as per the TORs. Furthermore Clause 12.1 requires bidders to demonstrate to the Department that they can carry the initial costs of the project. The Department does not do pre-payments.

	This will ensure that the appointed service provider can secure stock, stabilise supply chains, and meet the programme's operational timelines without risk of delays. We kindly request DBE to reconsider the current payment terms and advise whether a revised or alternative payment structure may be permitted.	
8.	The annexure showing the menu shows 20 lunch meals, but only 6 breakfast meals and only 3 snacks for the month - is this correct?	The revised weekly menu is attached.
9.	You list "Fortified/Enriched maize porridge and also "maize meal" - Is the "Fortified/Enriched maize porridge" that you list an instant (precooked) porridge?	The revised weekly menu is attached. No, there is no instant or precooked porridge on the menu.
10.	Do you have specification for the required food items?	The revised weekly menu is attached.
11.	Is the start date January 2027? (Knowing the start date is important for accurate pricing?	The commencement date for this bid will be post award.
12.	7.1.6.1 - you require two references for projects of at least R100 mill over 12 months. please consider reducing this to R30 mill, as this tender DBE209 value for the year is a considerably less than R100 mill. and very few companies in the country will have two contract values of R100 mill for a single contract, so I believe the requested value of references is out of sync with the tender value.	Bidders are requested to respond as per the TORs.
13.	7.1.9 - You require a warehouse of 3000m2. This is absolutely massive for the project and will exclude 995 of bidders. I calculate that each daily meal (lunch and breakfast and snack) is on average around 150g therefore the total mass of product required per month is only 79.8 tons (0.15 x 26620 x 20 days), that equates to only approx. 100 pallets. Judging from experience this means that <1000m2 is more than enough space. Please consider reducing this requirement to at least 2000 m2 warehouse.	The warehouse size is revised from 3000m² to 1500m². Please refer to the amended TORs and the Addendum.

14.	12.1 - You require the bidder to have a credit facility of R30 mill. I believe that this is out of sync with the value of the Tender and will exclude almost everyone. For example - we are a very cash strong business and currently feed 350 000 children per day in 9 provinces, and yet we don't require huge credit facilities at the banks. Credit facilities are for companies that don't have cash flow. Please will you consider reducing this to R15 million, which will then still be more than three months of food for this tender.	Bidders are requested to respond as per the TORs.
15.	Pricing Schedule calculations (Annexure B) The Excel pricing schedule does not contain preset formulas, and we would like to confirm the intended calculation methodology. - Should bidders simply total the UNIT PRICE columns per year to arrive at the TOTAL PRICE PER YEAR (i.e. assuming one unit per item), and then sum the three years to determine the final bid price? - If this is correct, it appears that the pricing does not take into account: - the number of children per ECD centre, or - the number of school days/months However, the Terms of Reference indicate that provisioning is based on the number of children and school calendar days. Could you please confirm how these factors should be incorporated into the pricing.	The spreadsheet has been revised. Bidders are required to provide an all-inclusive price per child, per day, based on the daily menu, as well as the total price per week and per year. The price must be fully inclusive. Bidders should therefore not provide separate cost breakdowns for logistics, warehousing, administration, fresh and dry goods, or costs per district. Please refer to the amended TORs and the Addendum.
16.	Practical considerations on fresh produce distribution We would like to raise a practical observation for consideration: Based on the indicative quantities, smaller ECD centres (e.g. ±10 children) would receive very small weekly volumes of fresh produce (e.g. a few individual items totalling approximately 2–3kg). The cost of delivering such small quantities on a weekly basis, particularly across rural distances, may significantly exceed the value of the produce itself. This could result in:	Bidders are requested to respond to the bid as per the TORs. The bid also makes provision for bidders to form “consortia”, joint venture and sub-contract local suppliers.

	• disproportionate logistics costs to the Department, and • potential quality concerns, as produce may be transported over long distances and durations before delivery. For example: A school of 10 children would receive approximately only: 5 carrots, 5 apples, 1 butternut, 1/2 cabbage and 1 onion - every week. This is only 2.5kg of vegetables. The cost to deliver this tiny amount to an ECD every Monday is going to be unviable for the Department as it would cost at almost 3 x the actual value of the produce (e.g. Value = R60 - Delivery cost R180 -based on distance, fuel, driver etc). Some schools are larger but, according to the list, many schools have even fewer than 10 children. The fresh produce will also be in a van all day in the sun before it gets to some ECDs, which may be a concern.	
17.	Suggested alternative approach (for consideration) In the interest of cost-efficiency and practicality, we would like to propose an alternative model for fresh produce: We I suggest it will be more cost efficient to have the option for the Bidder to pay a set amount into the bank account of each ECD to cover the purchase of fresh produce each month. The ECD principal can purchase locally as she needs, and she can submit proof of vegetable purchases if required. I.e: The Bidder, as part of their quote makes a payment of e.g. R1.30 per child per day for fresh vegetables and fruit. The Bidder then pays each ECD based on their number of children and the number of days in each month. (e.g. ECD with 18 children in June which has 23 school days will be paid R538.20 - [1.3 x 18x 23]). The Bidder then submits proof to the Department of the payment made to all schools each month, along with the signed delivery notes of the dry goods delivered. Mathematically this would save the NSNP more than R5-million a year just for these ECDs, as there would be no transport cost on the fruit and vegetables (just a small markup from the bidder to cover bank charges, etc).	Bidders are requested to respond to the bid as per the TORs.

	This model could significantly reduce transport costs, support local economies, improve freshness and flexibility and reduce overall programme costs.	
18.	Clarification on Clause 12.1 and 12.2 – Letter of comfort We also seek clarification regarding Clause 12.1 and 12.2 relating to the requirement for a Letter of Comfort. Our understanding from the briefing session was that the Letter of Comfort must be submitted with the bid. However, the clauses appear to indicate that: - the Letter of Comfort is required from the recommended bidder only; and - it must be submitted within 14 days of a request from the Department. Please confirm: - whether the Letter of Comfort is required at submission stage; or - only from the preferred/recommended bidder post-evaluation?	The letter of comfort will be required from the recommended bidder “only”, 14 days after receipt of communication from the Department.
19.	Request for Consideration of a Closing Date Extension In light of the above, we respectfully request that the Department consider extending the bid closing date. The pricing clarification is material, as it directly affects how bidders calculate their total bid price and how they structure a viable delivery solution. Without clarity on the intended pricing methodology and treatment of children numbers and feeding days, bidders may submit materially different interpretations, which could undermine fairness and comparability. In addition, this coming weekend is the Easter weekend, and South African businesses will be closed on Friday and Monday. This effectively reduces the available working response time by two business days at a critical stage of bid preparation, particularly where bidders need to consult logistics partners, financial teams, food	The tender closing date was extended to 2 November 2026 at 11:00.

	suppliers, warehouse operators and consortium members in order to prepare a compliant and realistic submission. An extension would allow bidders sufficient time to: • receive and interpret the Department's clarification correctly; • revisit pricing assumptions where necessary; • ensure that submissions are realistic, comparable and fully compliant; and • put forward solutions that are both practical and cost effective for the Department. We submit this request respectfully and in the interest of supporting a competitive, transparent and implementable outcome for the programme. We appreciate your guidance on the above and look forward to your response.	
20.	Please confirm that only 1 x original bid submission must be supplied for Bid DBE209.	Yes, 1 x original bid submission must be supplied, see paragraph 3.c of the Briefing Session Minutes.
21.	Attached is the list of ECD centres as per the initial scope shared. We understand that there are a total of 26 620 learners across the 1035 centres. To improve the accuracy of the supply chain model and pricing, we kindly request the number of learners per centre.	Bidders are requested to utilise the total number of centres and the estimated total number of learners provided for purposes of preparing their proposals. Detailed allocation per centre will be furnished to the appointed service provider during the contracting and SLA finalisation process.
22.	I kindly request more clarity on the unit price on the total items. Does it mean price per child? If not so I do understand how it works but if not plz let me know. After all the calculations must I just submit the price per child on the unit excluding vat on the first yr and second yr and third yr?	The spreadsheet has been revised. Bidders are required to provide an all-inclusive price per child, per day, based on the daily menu, as well as the total price per week and per year. The price must be fully inclusive. Bidders should therefore not provide separate cost breakdowns for logistics, warehousing, administration, fresh and dry goods, or costs per district.
23.	Please confirm if the warehouse must be in the Eastern Cape specifically, or if a warehouse in another area would also be	As indicated during the briefing session, the warehouse may be located anywhere within South Africa. However, under no circumstances should the service provider mention unforeseen

	acceptable? For example, would Johannesburg areas meet the requirement.	circumstances, such as protests along delivery routes, vehicle accidents, or any other disruptions, as reasons for delayed deliveries. The expectation is that all deliveries will reach Eastern Cape timeously.
24.	Can you please also confirm if we require refrigeration for the warehouse, trucks, or schools for the food items?	The service provider must determine storage requirements based on the menu provided, which includes both perishable and non-perishable items. Perishable items must be stored under appropriate conditions to prevent spoilage and contamination. Where applicable, adequate cold storage and maintenance of the cold chain are required. The service provider must also determine the required capacity of cold storage and ensure that transportation arrangements, where necessary, support temperature control based on the distance between the main warehouse and distribution points. All delivered food must meet the required quality and safety standards.
25	Kindly advise on the payment terms of the Tender DBE209.	As per the TORs, payments will be made upon receipt of valid invoices from the service provider.
26.	We write to formally request clarification regarding the apparent exclusion of CPA from the current ECD NSNP tender. Given the importance of equitable access, fair participation, and inclusive implementation in programmes of this nature, we are concerned that CPA does not appear to be covered within the present tender framework. The omission raises important questions regarding the criteria used to define the tender scope and the considerations that informed this decision. This matter is especially significant in the context of the current volatile geopolitical environment, which continues to affect supply chains, input costs, procurement certainty, and operational planning across multiple sectors. In addition, the ongoing fuel crisis and associated transport cost pressures have a direct bearing on logistics, distribution, pricing, and the viability of service delivery in many areas. These conditions make transparency and regional inclusivity in public procurement even more critical.	CPA will be applicable on an annual basis.

	In light of the above, we kindly request clarity on the following: Whether the exclusion of CPA was deliberate or an oversight. The policy, operational, logistical, or financial reasons for CPA not being included. Whether current geopolitical instability, fuel-related cost pressures, or other external risk factors played any role in shaping the tender coverage. Whether there are plans to issue an amendment, addendum, or future procurement process that will include CPA. A clear response from the Department will assist stakeholders in understanding the basis of the current tender structure and in planning appropriately within an increasingly uncertain operating environment. We therefore respectfully request a written response setting out the Department's position on this matter, including any relevant policy considerations and any intended next steps. We trust that the Department will give this matter due consideration, given the importance of the ECD NSNP programme and the need to ensure fairness, transparency, and inclusive coverage.	
27.	Whether there are any additional bidding instructions or mandatory requirements that bidders should be aware of before submitting their proposals.	There are no additional requirements beyond those set out in the published Tender Document, Terms of Reference (TORs), Addendum to the TORs; together with all the supporting documents.
28.	Whether there are any compulsory forms, declarations, or supporting documents that must accompany the bid submission in addition to those contained in the bid document.	
29.	Whether there are any updates, amendments, or addenda that have been issued for this tender.	Please refer to the Addendum to the TORs. Ms Rachel Ngoben's
30.	Whether bidders are required to register in advance for the virtual briefing session, and if so, kindly provide the registration process or the Microsoft Teams meeting details	The Non-compulsory Briefing Session has passed; it was held on 24 March 2026.
31.	If there are any specific packaging, labelling, or delivery requirements for hand-delivered bid submissions	There are no specific packaging or labelling requirements set by the DBE. For delivery of the bid documents, please refer to the

		second and third sentences on paragraph 3.b of these Briefing Session Minutes.
--	--	--

The tender closing date of 9 April 2026 at 11:00 was extended as follows:

- 8 May 2026,
- 29 May 2026,
- 22 June 2026;
- 20 July 2026;
- 14 August 2026,
- 11 September 2026;
- 2 October 2026;
- 23 October 2026;
- 2 November 2026 at 11:00.