

BASIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON TRACK WITH THE PROVISION OF SAFE AND APPROPRIATE SANITATION FACILITIES IN SCHOOLS

24 March 2022

The Department of Basic Education, together with Provincial Education Departments, is intensifying its delivery and monitoring of construction projects to deliver safe and appropriate school infrastructure.

The “Sanitation Appropriate For Education” (SAFE) programme was launched in August 2018 to provide appropriate sanitation facilities to schools dependent on basic pit toilets. The original number of schools on the programme was 3 898. There were several changes to the list since the start of the programme, mostly due to rationalisation of schools and site assessments that confirmed appropriate sanitation.

The current scope on the SAFE programme, includes **2 806** schools dependent on basic pit toilets. Of these, sanitation projects at **1 723** schools have already progressed to practical completion and provided a full set of appropriate toilets to such schools. The remaining **1 083** sanitation projects are scheduled for completion before the end of 2022/23 financial year as stated a year ago.

The “Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative” (ASIDI) was launched in 2010 to address specific infrastructure backlogs.

For the replacement of mud schools and those built of inappropriate structures, the current scope of work on the ASIDI programme includes **330** schools that need to be replaced. Of these, **294** have already progressed to practical completion. The remaining **36** new schools are scheduled for replacement before the end of 2022/23 financial year.

In terms of water provision; the current scope of work on the ASIDI programme includes **1 272** schools. Of these, water supply projects at **1 178** schools have already progressed to practical completion. The remaining **94** water supply projects are scheduled for completion before the end of 2022/23 financial year.

Media Enquiries:

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With regards to sanitation, the current scope of work on the ASIDI programme includes **1 053** schools. Of these, sanitation projects at **1 023** schools have already progressed to practical completion. The remaining **30** sanitation projects are scheduled for completion before the end of 2022/23 financial year.

The ASIDI programme also served 373 schools with electricity supply and 4 schools with fencing.

The Department has stepped up the monitoring of the projects to ensure that they are completed on time, to specifications and on budget. The Director-General of the Department of Basic Education, Mathanzima Mveli, has already visited more than 1660 projects between February 2021 and March 2022 on the SAFE programme. The monitoring function has assisted the Department to unblock challenges and resolve issues that delayed the building process.

Minister Angie Motshekga conducts weekly accountability sessions with the Director-General and the Infrastructure Branch at the DBE. In addition, the Director-General holds weekly update meetings with the chief executive officers of the implementing agents. The Department has developed detailed tracking tools and monitoring is taking place daily to ensure that implementing agents deliver as expected.

The SAFE and ASIDI programmes are funded from the School Infrastructure Backlog Grant. The total grant budget for 2021/22 is R2 396564 000. About 50% of such budget is allocated to the SAFE programme.

The Department is confident that we will achieve the annual performance plan targets and that the full budget allocation will be utilised.

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION

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