



**basic education**

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Address by the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, during the Education Sector District Development Model Lekgotla, held in Gauteng**

**26 August 2022**

Programme Director, Deputy Minister

MECs and HODs

Director-General, COGTA, Ms Williamson

Director-General

COGTA officials and Municipal Managers present

Senior Officials from the Provinces and DBE

District Directors and

Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to warmly welcome you to this auspicious event as we approach the pinnacle of the academic year – the administration of the final matric examinations.

I appreciate that you made time to attend this important session - knowing how busy you are with the LAST PUSH for the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations.

I am excited that we gather to discuss service delivery matters which are vital deliverables for Government and citizens.

We are all aware of community disruptions when these are not realized.

Service delivery protests are mostly linked to an inadequate provision of basic services at local municipality level (Morudu 2017).

For instance, South Africa recorded more than 900 service delivery protests in six months, from 1 August 2020 to 31 January 2021 alone.

With the National Senior Certificate Examinations (NSC) looming, all disruptions should be avoided at all costs.

Of course, service delivery must occupy the minds of every civil servant with one mission to deliver a Better Life for All.

The District Development Model (DDM) seeks to address the blockages which hamper service delivery and lead to service delivery protests affecting our economy.

We intend to strengthen partnership engagements with stakeholders geared towards heightened levels of service delivery through the District Development Model.

The Model is about one district, one budget, and one set of priorities and involves all tiers of Government.

The overall mantra of this DDM Lekgotla is discussions, joint problem identification, collaborative problem-solving and faster implementation.

It is also about catalytic projects that have long-term impacts on the lives of our people.

In the basic education sector, we have prioritized school infrastructure, water provision, decent sanitation, ECDs and National School Nutrition Programme as programmes with catalytic potential.

Ladies and gentlemen, the basic education system has faced a myriad of infrastructure challenges as part of the legacy of apartheid and recent underinvestment in the sector.

These were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic as learners had to observe social distancing and needed water for consistent washing of hands.

These challenges were partly addressed through the Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI) and Safe Sanitation Appropriate for Education (SAFE) programmes.

Today, the ASIDI project has delivered 308 schools, connected water to 1219 schools and sanitation to 1039 schools.

I am happy to report that out of 1272 schools that needed an improved water supply, 1241 have been completed.

The implementing agents have assured me they are working hard to complete these projects by 2023.

These will afford our learners decent and conducive learning environments.

We have successfully completed the Early Childhood (ECD) function shift from Social Development to Basic Education.

This presents another opportunity to innovate and work with the ECD practitioners and civil society who had kept the fires burning when the function was managed by the Department of Social Development.

I would like to thank them (practitioners and civil society groups) for shaping the foundation for our learners.

We have conducted an ECD Census to understand the sector and have incorporated the data into the Education Management Information System.

A whopping 42 420 ECD centres were identified in the country!

The Thrive by Five Index baseline study conducted in 2021 provides relevant information to improve quality through practitioner development and appropriate resourcing.

The information will also assist in tracking our progress to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal by 2030.

I urge you to ensure that our young ones are protected within the ECD centres.

Programme director, I cannot emphasize the need for proper nutrition to ensure mental and physical growth in our learners – “healthy mind in a healthy body”.

We have offered meals successfully through the National School Nutrition Programme for over 25 years.

This programme has also created jobs for the local communities.

Programme director, this Lekgotla is about creating a contract with citizens to deliver services faster, collaboratively and free of bottlenecks and corruption.

Some call the District Development Model (DDM) a Khawuleza project.

The existing collaborations must be formalized, planned and budgeted for in all the municipalities.

For our schools to be safe, we have programmes such as Adopt-A-Cop.

South African Police Service collaborates with the Department of Basic Education during the NSC examinations, amongst other programmes.

They also assist in protecting our schools against vandalism as well as violence.

We know that “Working Together, We Can Do More!”

We have, therefore, gathered here to ensure that the education sector is effectively represented in the Technical Teams in the municipalities.

This is also an attempt to ensure that the DDM mandate to ensure strengthened intergovernmental relations by all spheres of Government is achieved.

I hope you have already had a productive discussion so far.

I look forward to reading the final report with practical recommendations to take us forward.

I thank you.