No.0414 - 2023: Fifth Session, Sixth Legislature

**GAUTENG PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS,**

**TABLINGS AND**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**========================**

Friday, 01 December 2023

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

none

# TABLINGS

none

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. The Chairperson of the Education Portfolio Committee, Hon. T B Munyai, tabled the Committee’s Oversight Report on the Second Quarterly Performance Report of the Department of Educationfor the 2023/2024 financial year, as attached:**

**COMMITTEES QUARTER OVERSIGHT REPORT ON THE GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PERFORMANCE**

**Portfolio Committee on Education Oversight Report on the 2nd Quarterly Report of the Gauteng Department of Education for the 2023/24 Financial Year**

| **Committee Details** | | **Department Details** | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Committee** | **Portfolio Committee on Education** | **Name of Department** | **Gauteng Department of Education** |
| **Which Financial Year** | **2023/2024** | **Dept. Budget Vote Nr.** | **5** |
| **Which Quarter** | **2nd** | **Hon. Minister / MEC** | **Matome Chiloane** |
| **Committee Approvals** | | | |
|  | **Name** | | **Date Considered by Committee** |
| **Hon. Chairperson** | **Tshilidzi Munyai** | | **Thursday, 23rd of November 2023** |
| **Adoption and Tabling** | | | |
| **Date of Final Adoption by Committee** | | | **Scheduled date of House Tabling** |
| **Thursday, 30th of November 2023** | | | **Monday, 04th of December 2023** |

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# ABBREVIATIONS

| **Abbreviation** | **Full Wording** |
| --- | --- |
| ABET | Adult Basic Education & Training |
| AET | Adult Education & Training |
| CAPS | Curriculum Assessment Policy Statement |
| COVID-19 | Coronavirus Disease of 2019 |
| ECD | Early Childhood Education |
| FET | Further Education & Training |
| GDE | Gauteng Department of Education |
| GPL | Gauteng Provincial Legislature |
| HPV | Human Papilloma Virus |
| FSS | Full-Service Schools |
| FY | Financial Year |
| ICT | Information and Communication Technology |
| ISHP | Integrated School Health Programme |
| NQF | National Qualification Framework |
| MDG | Millennium Development Goals |
| SA-SAMS | South African School Administration and Management Systems |

# SUMMARY

| **ii. [Summary of the report]** |
| --- |
| The Committee noted the Gauteng Department of Education’s 2nd Quarterly Report and its commitment towards the implementation of the 2023/24 FY goals.  The Committee noted the following key highlights for the quarter under review,   * The launched of Oosrand Secondary, Phahama Secondary and Mapenane School as Schools of Specialization. * The Department further states that it continued with its relationship with different stakeholders to develop reading comprehension skills.   The Committee noted that the Department, conducted regional engagements with role players and stakeholders in the ECD sector to strengthen partnerships. The roadshow commenced with a visit to Mabopane in Tshwane and Duduza in Ekurhuleni. It has been a year since the GDE took over the ECD function shift from the Department of Social Development. During the period under review, GDE launched Three Schools of Specialisation to boost skills amongst Gauteng Learners. The 3 schools launched by the Department are:   * **Oosrand Commerce and Entrepreneurship School of Specialisation (SoS)** at Reiger Park in Boksburg on Thursday, 03 August 2023. The focus of the school is on Hospitality and Tourism. The school provides education on the aviation industry, including cabin crew training and emerging technologies like cryptocurrency and gaming. * **The Mapenane Mathematics, Science & ICT School of Specialisation** in Ga-Rankuwa, Zone 16 in Tshwane, was officially launched on 17 August 2023. The SoS was launched with a focus on Research and Innovation. The new block of this school was officially handed over in January 2023. The Committee further noted that, it was formerly a prison facility under the former Bophuthatswana Bantustan. * **The Phahama Maths, Science and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) School of Specialisation** was launched by the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) on 31 August 2023 at Mohlakeng, Randfontein. The school is located near an active mining region at the West Rand with a focus on mining.   The Committee noted that, all the completed new schools were provided with administrative spaces with all the needed spaces that are in line with the appropriate Norms and Standards of school buildings. The Department further stated that it has identified 84 mobile schools that need to be replaced, however it mentions schools such as Julius Sebolai, Menzi Primary, Moses Kotane and Nkone Maruping schools as achievements of the replacement programme. Nonetheless, all these mentioned schools have been in existence for more than 3 years. This suggests that the Department has not done anything meaningful in the last two years in respect of replacement of temporary mobile schools.  In terms of developing true reading and understanding , the Department continued to nurture its relationship with different stakeholders, including the National Reading Coalition (NRC) and National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT). Research has shown that the vast majority of South African school children cannot read for meaning by age of 10, in their Home Language and almost a third are still functionally illiterate in English by the age of 12. In response to this challenge, the Department together with stakeholders launched the Reading Circle at Diphalane Primary School in Munsieville, Johannesburg West. |
|  |
| **Financial Performance**  An overall Summary of whether the Committee thinks the Department Financial Performance is sound and prudent |
| The Committee noted that the Department received a total allocation of R63, 421, 638, 000.00. In allocation, the Department has spent R30, 587,735, 000.0 by the end of the quarter under review This shows that the Department has spent 96% of the total quarterly budget and 48% on its annual allocation. The Department’s overall budget expenditure conforms to Treasury Regulations which indicates that the Departments must spend 25% of their budgets in each quarter.  Generally, the Department’s performance in the quarter under review is fair across five programmes and suggests that the Department will achieve its planned 2023/24 FY objectives. This will further ensure that the Department continues to build stability within all sub-programmes in respect of budget spending. |
| **Resolutions Management**  An overall Summary of the Committee’s assessment of Department Resolutions Management |
| With respect to Committee resolutions taken during the quarter under review, **3 resolutions** have been passed emanating from the Committee Oversight Report on the Gauteng Department of Education 4th Quarter Report of the 2022/2023. As well as **3 resolutions** emanating from the Committee Oversight Report on the GDE’s 1st Quarterly Report for the 2023/2024 FY, totalling **6 resolutions.** |
| **Petitions Management**  An overall Summary of the Committee’s assessment of Department Petitions Management |
| The Committee did not receive Petitions during the quarter under review. |
| **GEYODI Empowerment**  Overall Summary on Department achievement on actual GEYODI empowerment in communities |
| * **GENDER** * Women’s Month Activities for August 2023 included gender sensitisation workshops for offices and schools with special emphasis on GBV&F, LGBTQIA+ and Sexual Harassment. 9 schools and 3 office-based directorates were capacitated. * Schools and district offices were capacitated on Sexual Harassment, Gender Sensitisation and Code of Conduct where a total of 775 (278 Males and 497 Females) employees were trained from the schools and stakeholders. * There has been an improvement in the percentage of female SMS members appointed. * **YOUTH** * Bursaries – 3 785 Gauteng youth awarded bursaries. * Apprenticeship/ Learnership/ skills programmes / work integrated learning – 2 877 Gauteng young people on Gauteng Learnership programme. * Workplace experience programmes (including PYEI) – 37 656 Gauteng youth on GCRA internship programme. * Career Guidance – 29 634 Gauteng youth had access to career education. * **PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**   + The Employment Equity (EEA) 1 disability disclosure forms were completed during every reasonable accommodation consultative meeting. Monthly.   + No progress has been made towards the GPG 5%. |
| **Fiduciary Compliance**  Overall Summary on Department Compliance with fiduciary requirements |
| The GDE submitted its 2nd Quarterly Report of 2023/2024 within the set timeframes, Formats, Quality and Legal Parameters in accordance with the Standing Rules: Rule 48 (1)(2)(3)(4). |
| **Capacitated Department** |
| The Department reported that while the period under review, 01 January 31 March 2023, a   * Total number of posts on the Department Structure as at the last day of the period under review is 96 964. * Total number of posts currently filled as at the last day of the period under review is 67 588. * Total number of vacant posts as at the last day of period under review is 29 376. * Total number of acting positions as at the last day of the period under review is at 330. * Total number of terminations during the period under review is 2 486. * Total number of new appointments during the period under review is 1 826. * Total number of suspensions during the period under review is as follows: Total Received: 35; Completed: 12 and Pending: 23   In terms of the summarized information on the GEYODI / HDI compliance for the period under review, the Department reported that, Disability is at 2,9% and Females at Senior Management (SMS) level is at 48%. |
| **Summary of Committee Findings/Concerns** |
| * The Committee noted that the Department did not report on the “Online Admission for Grade 1 and 8 status report during the quarter under review and further noted the Department’s explanation that, the learner enrolment will only be updated on 30th of November 2023 as this will provide a clearer picture on the data. * The Committee is concerned about the rising cases of food poisoning in communities, and this is affecting schools, as some learners are reported to get sick inside the schools’ premises. * The Committee is concerned about illegal Independent Schools and that, parents cannot differentiate between the legal and illegal. * The Committee noted concerns raised by Brakpan Primary School regarding dilapidating infrastructure because the school building is old and poses risks to learners and personnel. * The Committee is concerned about number of vacancies that have not been filled since 2019. |
| **Summary of Committee Recommendations** |
| * The Committee recommends that the Department provide a progress report on the 2024 academic year learner enrolment through the online system (Grade 1 and 8). The Department to provide the progress report by **30 January 2023.** * The Committee recommends that the Department work closely with Department of Community Safety on how best learners can be protected from the risks of food poisoning and should ensure that vendors are vetted accordingly. The Department to provide the Committee with a report on all reported incidents. The Department to provide the progress report by **30 January 2023.** * The Committee recommends that the Department put mechanisms in place and provide the committee with a progress report on how parents will be assisted, educated and alerted on illegal independent schools. The Department to provide the progress report by **30 January 2023.** * The Committee recommends that the Department urgently attend to Brakpan Primary School regarding delipidating infrastructure and provide the committee with a progress report thereof. The Department to provide the progress report by **30 January 2023.** * The Department is requested to report on the number of vacancies that have not been filled since 2019 and the reasons thereof. The Department should also indicate the levels of these vacancies and how are they impacting the overall functioning of the Department. The Department to provide the progress report by **30 January 2023.** |

# INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of the Education Portfolio Committee’s quarterly oversight on the Gauteng Department of Education for the 2nd Quarter of the 2023/2024 Financial Year (FY). The main objectives of the consideration of quarterly reported by the Legislature are to assess progress against the budget and strategic plans and obtain insight into departmental financial and non-financial performances against objectives.

The assessment was done in accordance with the Committee Oversight and Accountability (COVAC) Framework and Public Service Oversight Model (PSOM). Particularly, the Committee’s assessment was carried out focusing on both the financial and the service delivery performances of the Department.

The Committee’s assessment of the Department’s performance was focused on assessing the level of achieved targets against planned targets. The Committee also assessed the Department’s service delivery performance against its allocated budget for the quarter under review, to ascertain correlation between the delivery of services and budget expenditure. Furthermore, the Committee assessed the expenditure patterns to ascertain whether the Department’s expenditure was complaint with Treasury regulations and the PFMA. The Committee also highlighted areas of concern and made recommendations for the Department’s consideration to improve its performance and delivery of services.

# PROCESS FOLLOWED

The process that the Committee followed in considering the Gauteng Department of Education’s 2nd Quarterly Report was as follows:

1. **Monday, 30th of October 2023** the Portfolio Committee on Education received the referral of the Gauteng Department Education 2nd Quarterly Report for the 2023/2024 FY from the Speaker, Hon. Mekgwe for consideration and reporting.
2. **On Thursday, 16th November 2023,** the Committee Researcher presented the research analysis on the 2nd Quarterly Report for the 2023/2024 FY of the Gauteng Department of Education.
3. **On Thursday, 23rd November 2023,** the GDE made a presentation on its 2nd Quarterly Report for the 2023/2024 FY to the committee, including responses to Committee questions.
4. **On Thursday, 30th November 2023,** the Committee deliberated and adopted its oversight report on the 2nd Quarterly Report for the 2023/2024 FY.

# OVERSIGHT ON DEPARTMENT ACHIEVEMENT OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

| **1.1 THE DETAILS ON Department achievement on relevant Strategic Priorities for the period under review]** |
| --- |
| * **National priorities**   In his State of the Nation Address on 09 February 2023, the President of the Republic of South Africa, Honourable Ramaphosa stated that the focus of education will be on the following issues:   * Seeing improvements in the outcomes of basic education system. * Continue to invest and expand access to early childhood development. * The Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative programme to deliver modern facilities to schools in rural and underprivileged urban areas across the country. * **Provincial priorities**   In his 2023’s State of the Province Address, the Gauteng Premier, Honourable Lesufi emphasised the following issues:   * The introduction of dedicated funding for the introduction of Coding and Robotics to meet the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). * Thirty-three (33) primary schools Grades R to 3 and 90 Grade 7 schools to participate in the pilot Coding and Robotics Programme. * R2.2 billion has been invested towards bursaries from which 30 000 students have benefited through the Gauteng City Region financial assistance. * The Gauteng City Region Academy has set aside R420 million for Gauteng students who have done exceptionally well in matric results. * Invest in the improvement of outcomes in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects.   The Gauteng MEC for Department of Finance, Honourable Mamabolo indicated that:   * An allocation of R2.5 billion over the MTEF to complete the Universalisation of Grade R and preparing and piloting the introduction of Grade RR in public schools. * An allocation of R954 million over the MTEF has been made available towards Schools of Specialization in an effort to produce the skills required by the economy. * An allocation of R155 million has been set aside towards the improvement of literacy and numeracy across grades. * **Departmental Priorities**   The Department’s approach and plan for the next five years is aligned to the goal of eradicating the social, economic and spatial legacies of the country. GDE’s six priorities over the next five years are as follows:   * Universalization of Grade R and preparation for the introduction of Grade RR. * Promoting quality education across all classrooms and grades. * Expanding and enhance schools of specialization. * Provincial, national, regional and international learner assessments. * Skills for a changing world including technical high schools. * Fourth Industrial Revolution, ICT and e-learning.   Key allocations include:   * R3.2 billion for direct transfers to Public Ordinary Schools, Early Childhood Development sites and Special Schools. * R2.7 billion for the special school sector which caters for learners with intellectual and other disabilities. * R1.2 billion to provide more than 1.4 million learners with a hot meal at school every day. * R1 billion to transport learners who live more than 5 kilometres from the nearest school. * R238 million to support the continued roll out of e-Learning strategy. * R2 billion for textbooks, stationery, school furniture and other learner support materials. * R196 million towards the teacher development and support initiatives. * R159 million to improve the Grade 12 performance and to increase the bachelor pass rates.   National Development Plan (NDP)  According to the Department, its major sub-outcomes in the National Development Plan (NDP) include:   * Access to quality Early Childhood Development (ECD), * Improved quality teaching and learning, * Capacity of the state to intervene and support quality education, * Increased accountability for improved learning, * Human resources development and management of schools, and * Infrastructure and learning materials to support effective education.   **Millennium Development Goals (MDG)**  MDG 2: Universalise primary education.  In line with the above mentioned international and national strategic policies pronouncement, this analysis will examine the progress demonstrated by the Department in moving towards achieving these policies. The following section looks at the technical performance of the Department. |

# 2 OVERSIGHT ON DEPARTMENT ACHIEVEMENT OF APP TARGETS

| **2 THE DETAILS ON DEPARTMENT APP PERFORMANCE** |
| --- |
| **Number of APP targets relevant for this Quarter** |
| The Committee noted 3 APP targets for the quarter under review. |
| **Number of APP targets for this Quarter that have been achieved during this Quarter** |
| 2 of the Quarterly measures were achieved. |
| **Percentage of APP targets for this Quarter that have been achieved during this Quarter** |
| 67% |
| **Percentage of APP achievement for the previous Quarter (for Comparison)** |
| 67% |
| **Main areas in the APP that have experienced non-achievement or over achievement during this Quarter** |
| ***Outcome for the 2nd Quarter***   * Three (3) of the 34 Indicators are reported in this quarter. (Referred to as ‘Quarterly Standardised Outcome Indicators’). * 2 (67%) of the 3 Quarterly Indicators were achieved. * 31 Annual Outcome Indicators are in progress towards achievement by the end of the financial year. * 19 (61%) of the indicators in progress were “achieved”. * 12 (39%) of the indicators in progress were “not achieved”. * 9 Indicators are not applicable this quarter. |
| **Main reasons provided by the Department for non-achievement or over achievement of its APP during this Quarter** |
| The Department reported that it is due to the decline in the employment of specialist staff as a result of attrition due to retirement and resignation. |
| **Measures in place (with timeframes) to correct the deviation in targets for this Quarter and to prevent recurrence of such or similar deviation** |
| The Department reported that, this is due to a decline in the employment of specialist staff as a result of attrition due to retirement and resignation. |
| **A summarized analysis on the Department performance per Programme for the period under review** |
| **Programme 1: Administration**  * **Office of the MEC**     During the quarter under review, the Department coordinated various initiatives and supported campaigns such as the 2024 Gauteng Online Admission, School Safety and Schools of Specialization.   * **Corporate Services**   The Department reported that, Management plans were developed for the compilation of the 2024/25 Annual Performance Plan, Budget Chapter, Macro-Plans, Operational Plans and Conditional Grant Reports. It will be good if GPL can speed up the process of implementing contracting so the GPG Departments can submit their draft APPs for scrutiny by the Portfolio Committees before they can be finalized.   * **Education Management Information Systems (EMIS)**   The Department reported that, during the quarter under review, the focus was on ECD verification across all districts in the province. In addition, the Department reports that it maintained the Master list daily and registered 31 Independent Schools on the list after verifying their location using Google Earth.   * **Human Resource Development**   The Department stated that during the period under review, 194 office-based posts were advertised while 673 school-based educator promotion and therapists’ posts were also advertised in Circular 08 of 2023. The Department also reports that it is actively monitoring the filling of posts that were carried over from vacancy circulars advertised as far back as 2019. The Committee is concerned about number of vacancies that have not been filled since 2019.  The Committee noted that, during the year under review, 76 grievance management cases were carried over from the previous quarter and 161 cases were added. Programme 2: Public Ordinary School Education  * **Education Support Interventions**   The Committee noted that, the Department continued to provide learners with School Nutrition Programme (SNP) and scholar transport. By implementing these two programmes (SNP and Scholar transport), it suggests that the Department is dedicated to ensuring that learners arrive at schools on time and are being provided with nutritious meals in order to enhance their’ ability to learn and ultimately improve their academic performance.   * ***The National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP)***   The report shows that 1 655 936 learners had access to the school nutrition programme during the quarter under review. This shows that the Department is committed to provide nutritious meals to learners in order to improve their ability to learn.  With respect to the number of reported cases of children who were either hospitalized and passed on as a result of consuming food, either sold at school or food provided at schools and the department provide specific measures creating a safe environment in schools. The Department reported that, specific measures are being put in place to create a food safe environment in our schools such as:   * Training of Voluntary Food Handlers (VFH) who prepare meals for the leaners at schools participating in the School Nutrition programme on food safety and handling; * Providing Personal protective equipment to VFH; * Create safety measures in schools so that schools do not store chemicals for cleaning with food stuff; * Providing educational and advocacy material on food safety measures for schools to follow; * The National Department of Basic Education (DBE) has developed a repository of resources comprising of guidelines, such as rules and safety measures to proactively manage incidents of food poisoning. The materials are also dispatched to schools as a source of reference and easily accessible on the DBE website for all schools; * All school nutrition coordinators at Head Office and District offices are trained on the guidelines, rules and safety measures annually to ensure the implementation of preventative measures and this is over and above the training of Voluntary Food Handlers; * The Department’s Service Level Agreements with service providers has specifications about freshness of food and compliance with the expiry dates; * Providing all schools with Standard Operating procedures to follow on food safety issues; and * Monitoring schools on implementation of the guidelines provided on this matter. * ***Learner Transport***   The Department reported that through the Learner Transport Programme, 206 219 are being ferried daily.   * ***Improve the quality of teaching and learning.***   + ***Teacher development and Support***   The Department reported that:   * Monitoring and Support was conducted during school visits to ensure the quality of learners and written work. This according to the report included moderation processes that were implemented at school level. * The Department indicates that challenging content topics were made simple through guidelines documents and through daily activities per topic area. * In addition, Intermediate and Senior (INTERSEN) Phase material was developed with the main focus on both Home and First Additional Languages.   In line with the above achievements, it implies that the Department is dedicated to improving curriculum implementation and ultimately learners’ academic performance in public schools.  **Public Primary Schools**   * ***Improve learner performance.***   The Department indicated that support was provided to 248 schools and 1 156 Foundation Phase teachers during school visits focusing on curriculum coverage, Curriculum Assessment Policy Statement implementation, resource utilization and School Based Assessment coverage.   * ***The strengthening of teaching Home Language in the Foundation and Intermediate Phases***   The Department stated that the Literacy and Numeracy Upliftment Programme is currently being implemented to develop the skills, values, and knowledge of Foundation Phase Departmental Heads to better support educators in the delivery of literacy and numeracy. This will contribute to the enhancement of learners’ academic performance.  **Public Secondary Schools**  The Department indicated that it continued with the development and quality assurance of the SSIP material as well as the training of SSIP tutors. The Department further reports that it held Learner SSIP camps for technical subjects wherein Nine (9) technical subjects were offered and prioritised. This suggests that the Department is committed to attain the Grade 12 pass rate target.   * ***Human Resource Development***   The Department indicated that 127 SMT’s were trained from ICT and SOS’s schools on ICT Change Management focusing on Preparing for Change, Implementing and Monitoring Change as well as Evaluating Change. In addition, Literacy and Numeracy Support Strategy Programme is currently being designed and piloted with 150 participants focusing on equipping Foundation Phase Departmental Heads with skills, Knowledge and values to support educators in addressing literacy and numeracy related barriers.   * ***Conditional Grants***   The Department reports that it has rolled out Teacher Development workshops for Maths and Physical Science, Coding and Robotics programme as well as Vocationally Oriented Curriculum pilot subjects through the Mathematics, Science and Technology Conditional Grant.   Programme 3: Independent School Subsidies  * **Primary Phase**   The Department reports that a total of 566 grades 1-9 learners were registered for Home Education in this phase in the quarter under review. In terms of subsidy, a total of 74 879 Primary Phase learners were subsidized during the reporting period.  The Department is requested to report on the following:   * The number of deregistered Independent Subsidized Schools during the quarter under review. * The names of illegally operating Independent Schools visited during the quarter under review for oversight purposes. * **Secondary Phase**   The Department explains that 200 grades 7-9 Home Education learners were subsidized during the reporting period. In addition, 45 650 Secondary Phase learners were subsidized during the period under review.   Programme 4: Public Special School Education  * **Schools**   The Committee noted that, during the period under review, it supported the advocacy campaign of South African Sign Language and the deaf community as part of the multi-certification programme wherein 1 400 Grade 5 hearing impaired learners currently benefit from the basic SASL introduction programme.  The Department further states they engaged on the support meeting held with principals of Full-Service Schools to provide guidance on improving support to learners with mild to moderate support needs.   * **Human Resource Development**   The Department reported that it held a Differentiated Assessment Policy Statement (DCAPS) training in September for 180 educators. In one of the Committee question, The Department reported on specific aims and targets of the training on DCAPS in the quarter under review, that, all school nutrition coordinators at Head Office and District offices are trained on the guidelines, rules and safety measures annually to ensure the implementation of preventative measures and this is over and above the training of Voluntary Food Handlers. The Department’s Service Level Agreements with service providers has specifications about freshness of food and compliance with the expiry dates; providing all schools with Standard Operating procedures to follow on food safety issues; and monitoring schools on implementation of the guidelines provided on this matter.  Though the aim of training on DCAPS is to adequately prepare educators for the implementation of the National Curriculum Statement: Grade R - 5 for learners with Severe Intellectual Disability (DCAPS) in identified and targeted school. One DCAPS training session was held 2 September 2023 attended by 181 educators.   * The training focused on the following areas:   + Generic Curriculum overview;   + Examples on how and where to use information from in the subject statements;   + Practical ideas- how to make a worksheet interactive;   + Group activities and discussion; and   + Curriculum adaptation- practical ideas. * 2 x Professional Learning Community sessions were held to allow schools to share information and experiences. * 2 x Meetings were held between the Directorates: ISS and GET to enhance curriculum support to schools.   The DCAPS training scheduled for 2024 were finalised for tabling at the PELRC Chamber.   * **School Sports, Arts and Culture**   The Department stipulates that the selection for Severe Intellectual Disability Summer games in Gymnastics for the Deaf, Para Table tennis and Mild Intellectual Disability took place in August and Summer. According to the Department, the selection were premised on the teams to represent the Province at the National Summer games billed for October and December. Programme 5: Early Childhood and Development  * **Grade R in public schools**   The Department states that during the quarter under review, the focus was to increase access to Grade R, through those efforts, a total of 1 409 Primary Schools are offering Grade R classes in the Province. The Department further reports that there are 132 070 Grade R Learners that were enrolled in schools across Public Schools, Independent Schools and Community Based Sites (CBS). In addition, a total of 86 qualified Grade R Practitioner in Public Ordinary Schools have been absorbed into Post Level 1 in the during the quarter under review. This implies that the Department is committed to universalise Grade R in the province.   * **Pre-Grade R**   The Department reports that the Department of Basic Education is in a process of developing the ECD Service Delivery Model for all provinces. In addition, Grade R curriculum team held a meeting with Grade R Mathematics and Language Improvement Programme Design and Planning Workshop Group to discuss the Implementation of Mathematics Improvement Programme across the ECD sector and also Special schools. This shows a dedication of the Department in terms of the provision of quality education in the pre-Grade R classes.   * **Human Resource Development**   The Department reports it continued with the bursary programme at the ETDP SETA with additional 121 practitioners registered for B.Ed (Foundation Phase). **Programme 6: Infrastructure Development** The Committee noted that, all the completed new schools were provided with administrative spaces with all the needed spaces that are in line with the appropriate Norms and Standards of school buildings.  The Department further stated that it has identified 84 mobile schools that need to be replaced, however it mentions schools such as Julius Sebolai, Menzi Primary, Moses Kotane and Nkone Maruping schools as achievements of the replacement programme. Nonetheless, all these mentioned schools have been in existence for more than 3 years. This suggests that the Department has not done anything meaningful in the last two years in respect of replacement of mobile schools.   1. **Masizebenze comprehensive school**   Masizebenze has a total of 2365 learners. The state of the school is not good. The conditions of the toilets are deplorable, all of them don’t have doors and the basin to wash hands inside is not working. It is a technical school with a lot of resources inside the workshops, the electrical engineering workshop is one of the fully equipped workshops and the HOD indicated that he is happy with what he have in the workshop.  The metal and sheeting workshop is also equipped, but most of the machines are very old and two are broken and there is no money to fix them. They have old mobile classrooms in a bad state and one can see the ground when inside the classroom. In one classroom, the ceiling fell off and they placed corrugated iron sheet as a replacement of the ceiling.   1. **Kaalfontein Sec School**   The school has about 1899 learners and the whole school is built by alternative technology classrooms. There are two mobile classrooms that are in a bad condition and due to no other options, the school is making use of those classrooms. They requested a brick and mortar but so far, the department has not responded. Due to the high number of learners, the toilets block almost every third day and infrastructure money is used to fix the toilets now and then. In early 2022, the department delivered two mobile classes, but they have not eased the pressure.  With respect to a report on Page 68 of the Second Quarter report, there is a need for Gauteng Department of Education to appoint a contractor to complete the Birch Acres Primary School. The Department was also requested to provide a detailed report on the outstanding process to appoint a contractor for the school.  The Department reports that, it has conducted a condition assessment of the current incomplete works at Birch Acres Primary School. This was to establish the quantity of works as well as the budget required to bring the project to completion.  With this exercise complete, the Department had to explore alternative procurement modalities given the lapsed time as there is an urgent need for learner spaces in the area. To this end, the Department is evaluating several existing contracts with other Departments and state entities for possible participation.  **MASISEBENZE COMPREHENSIVE SECONDARY SCHOOL 700261065 EN**   * **The school has challenges in terms of maintenance.** * **The mitigations are as follows:**   + A mechanical maintenance project was completed in the 2023/2024 financial year, which included the servicing and replacement of fire extinguishers, as well as new air-conditioning units;   + A general building maintenance contractor is currently busy on site and progress is at 75%; and   + The scope of work includes the following: roofing repairs, fixing of ceilings, construction of a ramp, replacement of floor tiles, replacement of doors, installation of security gates, installation of hand wash basins, installation of fire horse reels, painting of internal and external walls, replacing of broken glazing and painting of window frames.   **The school has also been allocated four mobile classrooms for delivery during the 2023/24 financial year.**  **KAALFONTEIN SECONDARY SCHOOL 700400347 JE**   * **The school has challenges with overcrowding and maintenance.** * **It is built from Alternative Construction Technologies (ACT) with 32 ACT classrooms and four mobile classrooms.** * **There are 1855 learners at the school.** * **The mitigations are as follows:**   + Conversion of nine ICT classrooms were completed in the 2021/22 financial year.   + The scope of works included installation of burglar bars and upgrades to the floor installation.   + In addition, there has been the painting of internal walls, installation of doors, installation of white boards, installation of pinning boards, installation of window glazing, electrical repairs, and refurbishment of two toilet blocks. * **Kaalfontein Secondary school has also been allocated six mobile classrooms for delivery during the 2023/24 financial year.**   Regarding a progress report on all self-built programme beneficiaries that were approved since 2023 First quarter reporting period to date. The Department has finalized the award of an entity that will assist in tracking the progress of the 2023 benefitting schools. The Department will make the report available as soon as its concluded.     * **Special School**   The report indicates that all upgrades and additional projects were upgraded in line with the norms and standards. With respect to the replacement of Rotara LSEN, the Department was requested to provide the Committee with a specific location where the school will be built, for oversight purposes. The Department reported that, the project is located on Stand portion 58 of 4044 Carletonville, Extension 9.   * **Early Childhood Development**   The Department explains that additional Grade R classrooms were provided to existing primary schools where there was a need. This may address overcrowding in grade R classes.  The Department further reported on the progress and value of Infrastructure projects that are being handled by the GDE for the 2023 Financial Year. The total infrastructure allocation for the 2023/24 FY has been revised and has decreased in the mid-year period to R2,23 billion from R 2, 46 billion. The programme had to be reprioritized within the allocation through analysis of performance on programs to date and against set targets through a budget adjustment exercise. Programme 7: Examination and Education Related Services **Professional Services**  The Department reports that in the quarter under review it held a Colloquium focusing on substance abuse support and interventions for schools with the DBE and Community-based organisations. The Department is requested to report on the number and progress of cases dealing with the following in schools during the quarter under review:   * Corporal Punishment, * Bullying, and * Sexual Assault.   **School Readiness Processes**  The Department reports that a physical verification process was conducted and completed in July 2023. This according to the report was carried out by Circuit Managers and Verification Teams across all 15 Districts. According to the report, this was done to ensure that all schools were adequately resourced for teaching and learning from the first academic day of Term 3. The Committee noted that, despite the verification programme being carried out, schools such as Prospectus Secondary School are reporting a shortage of tables and chairs in the facility which may affect their focus and concentration on learning and teaching and eventually impact their pass rate. The Department was requested to provide a report on how it is assisting schools such as Prospectus Secondary School with adequate learners’ desks and chairs.  The Department reported that, it provides learner and educator furniture on request submitted by the schools, which have been profiled to have an EMIS number.  The department profiles all schools using the EMIS number. The school Prospectus Secondary School does not appear or have the EMIS number on the list of operating public GDE schools. The only school with the EMIS number is PROSPECTUS NOVUSSKOOL (EMIS No: 700231365) is in Tshwane North District. This school has not submitted furniture request.  PROSPERITUS SECONDARY SCHOOL (EMIS No: 700220079) is a school under Tshwane South District.   * The school has submitted a request via an email on 17/11/2023 at 16h30 through the district office of:   + Single Desks – 330   + Chairs – 330 * A shipment will be issued for delivery of the learner furniture on 22 November 2023.      * **Special Projects**   The Department reports that during the quarter under review, various activities such as psychometric testing, district activations, and Sci-bono girl programme were undertaken. In response to Committee question about a report on the number and geographical spread of job opportunities that were created for young people in the province. The Department reported that, it has created 40 130 job opportunities. The geographical spread of job opportunities that were created for young people in the province, a table indicating a breakdown was provided to the Committee showing the PYEI Programme; GDE Districts; Number of Educator Assistants (EAs) & General School Assistants (GSAs) per District and Number of EAs & GSAs per Region. |
| **Summarized information on how the Department / Entity maintains portfolios of evidence to verify its reported performance information** |
| * A printed signed copy of the Quarterly report and its electronic copy (deemed approved by line function management) is submitted together with electronic datasets of performance information for quantitative information reported on. * All evidence is referenced with a unique code for easy filing and accessibility. * Digital platforms are also utilised to store electronic evidence (Cloud storage documents e.g., Provincial Warehouse, Departmental Servers, Google Drive and One-Drive). |

# 3 OVERSIGHT ON DEPARTMENT PROJECT MANAGEMENT

| **3 THE DETAILS ON DEPARTMENT PROJECT MANAGEMENT** |
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| The Department reported that, the Committee should refer to Section F.3 DEPARTMENT PROJECT MANAGEMENT Q1 2023-24 provided with the Report. |

# 4 OVERSIGHT ON DEPARTMENT / ENTITY FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

| **4 THE DETAILS ON DEPARTMENT FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE** |
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| **Actual amount (in Rands) allocated to the Department as budget for this entire Financial Year** |
| R 63 421 638, 000 |
| **Actual amount projected by the Department to be spent only during the Q under review** |
| R 31 865 305,000 |
| **Actual amount (in Rands) spent by the Department only during the Q under review** |
| R 30 587 735, 000 |
| **Total actual amount (in Rands) spent by the Department (Year to Date), i.e., from the beginning of this FY to the end of this Q under review** |
| R 30 587 735, 000 |
| **Percentage (% of total budget allocation) of budget expenditure for this Q under Review only** |
| 96% |
| **Percentage (% of total budget allocation) of budget expenditure (Year to Date), i.e., from the beginning of this FY to the end of this Q under review** |
| 48% |
| **An analysis of how the % budget expenditure compares with the % APP achievement** |
| The Department received a total allocation of R63, 421, 638, 000.00. In allocation, the Department has spent R30, 587,735, 000.00 by the end of the quarter under review. This shows that the Department has spent 96% of the total quarterly budget and 48% on its annual allocation. The Department’s overall budget expenditure conforms to Treasury Regulations which indicates that the Departments must spend 25% of their budgets in each quarter.  Generally, the Department’s performance in the quarter under review is fair across five programmes and suggests that the Department will achieve its planned 2023/24 FY objectives. This will further ensure that the Department continues to build stability within all sub-programmes in respect of budget spending. |
| **If there was over / under spending of greater than 3% of projection, what were the main challenges that led to the over / under spending** |
| ***Underspending/Overspending:***   * **Programme 1: ADMINISTRATION:**   + Underspending on goods and services was due to all central recruitment process by office of the Premier advert for level 1-12 published by office of the Premier in Nasi Span booklet, the spending on legal services is determined by the court proceeding.   + The underspending was also affected by some of IT systems and support projects which are done by e-Gov, and they are delaying and also there is a delay on BI SA SAMS due to change in resources.   + **Programme 2: PUBLIC ORDINARY SCHOOLS:**   + Most of the training of employees which were projected to take place from April till to date, it will take place during October and there is delay of paying the invoices in time for office building rentals due to some service providers who are not tax compliant.   ***Underspending/Overspending:***   * **Programme 3: INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS SUBSIDIES:**   + As per Treasury norms and standards, the programme is supposed to be seating at 50% however as per section 40 supposed to be at 75%. Therefore, expenditure is seating at 79% which is overspending with 4% because of new schools qualifying for funding and the program anticipating an overspending. * **Programme 4: PUBLIC SPECIAL SCHOOL:**   + As per the approved Business Plan, the LSPID Grant are to be spending 50% at the end of September 2023.   + One post is vacant in the LSPID Conditional Grant. The SES post was short-listed, and interviews were held. The unit is waiting for approval from HR.   ***Underspending/Overspending:***   * **Programme 5: EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT:**   + The programme is slightly underspending in overall due to a delay in the commencement of conducting financial assessments for Pre-Grade R. In the quarter under review, the programme performed very well. * **Programme 6: INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT:**   + The performance of this programme is very low in the quarter under review due to underperformance by GDID as implementing agent.   + Expiry of the maintenance roaster for implementation of various school maintenance has affected the spending.   + Delay in the implementation of projects via BFI (Budget Facility for Infrastructure) program has resulted in under expenditure.   ***Underspending/Overspending:***   * **Programme 7: Examination and Education Related Services:**   + The overall performance of this programme is underspending in both quarter and in overall performance, underspending in Goods and services for Computer services is caused by Exams and Assessment automation which is being put on hold due to the challenges of the building to be utilised. Training of Teacher Assistants was delayed due to the delay in finalisation of appointments for the new Cohorts for PYEI and EPWP food handlers training for health and safety is scheduled to take place in October. The procurement of dignity packs won’t be done due to the Department of social development has taken over the project and funds will be surrendered.   + Machinery and equipment is underspending because of delays in submission of invoices from the service provider due to tax issues. |
| **Mitigating measures by the Department to remedy over / under expenditure** |
| **The Committee noted the following mitigating measures to remedy over / under expenditure:**   * The Department will monitor spending on a monthly basis with a view to encourage improved spending in the coming quarters of the financial year by each manager. The adjustment process will further be utilised to defray pressures with funds realised from areas underspending. |
| **The Department achievement with respect to GEYODI responsive budgeting / procurement for the period under review** |
| The Department’s achievement with respect to GEYODI responsive budgeting / procurement for the period under review:   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Financial Year** | **Details** | **Amount Paid** | **% Spent to Total** | | 2023-2024 | People with disabilities | 2 252 974,51 | 0,2% | | 2023-2024 | Youth | 66 827 834,33 | 4,7% | | 2023-2024 | Female | 195 419 225,59 | 13.7% | | Total |  | 264 500 034,42 | 18,5% | |
| **The Department achievement with respect to township economy / SMME / local procurement for the period under review** |
| The Department’s achievement with respect to township economy / SMME / Local procurement for the period under review:   * Payments by corridors is sitting at 278 026 490 ,17 which indicates a percentage of 19,4%.   *Summary for the period under review with respect to payment of service providers within 15-30 days*   * The Department continued to comply with the 15-day payment performance. |

# 5. OVERSIGHT ON DEPARTMENT RESOLUTIONS AND PETITIONS MANAGEMENT

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| **5.1 THE DETAILS ON DEPARTMENT RESOLUTIONS MANAGEMENT** | |
| **How many Responses / Actions to Resolutions were due by the Department / Entity during the Quarter under review** | **With respect to all Resolutions that were due in the Quarter under review, how many Resolutions have been successfully responded to by the Department** |
| With respect to Committee resolutions taken during the quarter under review, 3 resolutions have been passed emanating from the Committee Oversight Report on the Gauteng Department of Education 4th Quarter Report of the 2022/2023. As well as 3 resolutions emanating from the Committee Oversight Report on the GDE’s 1st Quarterly Report for the 2023/2024 FY, totalling 6 resolutions. | 6 |
| **What is the Committees perception of the Quality and Timeliness of Department responses to Committee Resolutions** | |
| The Committee is generally satisfied with responses from the Department, and they have adhered to timeframes given. | |
| **With respect to the Resolutions / Action due during the Quarter under review but still overdue, what reasons have been provided by the Department / Entity [with mitigating measures to submission]** | |
| N/A | |

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| **5.2 THE DETAILS ON DEPARTMENT PETITIONS MANAGEMENT** | |
| **How many Responses / Actions to Petitions due by the Department / Entity during the Quarter under review** | **With respect to all Petitions that were due in the Quarter under review, how many Petitions have been successfully responded to by the Department / Entity** |
| 1 | 0 |
| **What is the Committees perception of the Quality and Timeliness of Department / Entity responses to referred Petitions** | |
| N/A | |
| **With respect to the Petitions / Action due during the Quarter under review but not yet responded to by the Department / Entity, what reasons have been provided by the Department / Entity [with mitigating measures to submission]** | |
| N/A | |

# 6 OVERSIGHT ON DEPARTMENT PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

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| **6. THE DETAILS ON DEPARTMENT PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS** |
| **The steps / measures the Department has taken to meaningfully involve the public / stakeholders in the course of its work / service delivery, during the period under review** |
| The Department reported on the following public engagements:   * SGB Associations mediation session on the 2024 Admissions Online. * Media Briefing on the Operation Kgutla Molao School Safety Campaign. * Launch of MEC Book Club. * International Literacy Day.   **Management of media enquiries**  150 Media enquiries were received during this period and focused on:   * Attempted suicides (04); * Scholar transport (3); * Learner Deaths (10); * Early Childhood Development (11); * School Infrastructure (20); * Learner Misconduct (20); * Educator misconduct (6); * School Nutrition (2); * School Safety (10); * Bogus Schools (10); * Unpaid Stipends (04); and * Mismanagement of Funds (5). |

# 7 OVERSIGHT ON DEPARTMENT GEYODI EMPOWERMENT

| **7. DETAILS ON DEPARTMENT GEYODI EMPOWERMENT** |
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| * **GENDER** * Women’s Month Activities for August 2023 included gender sensitisation workshops for offices and schools with special emphasis on GBV&F, LGBTQIA+ and Sexual Harassment. 9 schools and 3 office-based directorates were capacitated. * Schools and district offices were capacitated on Sexual Harassment, Gender Sensitisation and Code of Conduct where a total of 775 (278 Males and 497 Females) employees were trained from the schools and stakeholders. * There has been an improvement in the percentage of female SMS members appointed. * **YOUTH** * Bursaries – 3 785 Gauteng youth awarded bursaries. * Apprenticeship/ Learnership/ skills programmes / work integrated learning – 2 877 Gauteng young people on Gauteng Learnership programme. * Workplace experience programmes (including PYEI) – 37 656 Gauteng youth on GCRA internship programme. * Career Guidance – 29 634 Gauteng youth had access to career education. * **PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**   + The Employment Equity (EEA) 1 disability disclosure forms were completed during every reasonable accommodation consultative meeting. Monthly.   + No progress has been made towards the GPG 5%. |

# 8 OVERSIGHT ON DEPARTMENT COMPLIANCE WITH FIDUCIARY REQUIREMENTS

| **8. [DETAILS ON DEPARTMENT COMPLIANCE WITH FIDUCIARY REQUIREMENTS]** | |
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| **GPL** | The GDE submitted its 2nd Quarterly Report of 2023/24 FY on the set timeframes, Formats, Quality and Legal Parameters in accordance with the Standing Rules: Rule 48 (1)(2)(3)(4). |

# 9 OVERSIGHT ON A CAPACITATED PUBLIC SERVICE

| **9. THE DETAILS ON A CAPACITATED DEPARTMENT** |
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| **HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITY (excluding posts provided to Schools via the PPM)** | | |
| **During the period under review (01 January 31 March 2023)** | | |
| **Total number of posts on the Department Structure as at the last day of the period under review** | **Total number of posts currently filled as at the last day of the period under review** | **Total number of vacant posts as at the last day of period under review** |
| 96 964 | 67 588 | 29 376 |
| **Total number of acting positions as at the last day of the period under review** | **Total number of terminations during the period under review** | **Total number of new appointments during the period under review** |
| 330 | 2 486 | 1 826 |

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| --- |
| **Detailed information on any suspensions for the period under review** |
| In terms of the information regarding suspensions for the period under review, the Department reported as follows:  Total Received: 35  Completed: 12  Pending: 23 |
| **Summarized information on the GEYODI / HDI compliance for the period under review** |
| **Disability 2,9%**  **Females at SMS 48%** |

# 10 COMMITTEE FINDINGS / CONCERNS

| **10. DETAILED COMMITTEE FINDINGS / CONCERNS** |
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| 1. The Committee noted that the Department did not report on the “Online Admission for Grade 1 and 8 status report” during the quarter under review and further noted the Department’s explanation that, the learner enrolment will only be updated on 30th of November 2023 as this will provide a clearer picture on the data. 2. The Committee is concerned about the rising cases of food poisoning in communities, and this is affecting schools, as some learners are reported to get sick inside the schools’ premises. 3. The Committee is concerned about illegal Independent Schools and that parents cannot differentiate between the legal and illegal. 4. The Committee noted concerns raised by Brakpan Primary School regarding dilapidating infrastructure because the school building is old and poses risks to learners and personnel. 5. The Committee is concerned about number of vacancies that have not been filled since 2019. |

# 11. PROPOSED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

| **11 DETAILED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Based on the information set out herein-above as well as the Committee Concerns, the Committee therefore recommends as follows:** | | | |
| **Ref Number** | **Recommendation** | **Type of response expected** | **Due Date** |
| EPC / Q2GDE / 001 | The Committee recommends that the Department provide a progress report on the 2024 academic year learner enrolment through the online system (Grade 1 and 8). | Written response | 30 January 2023 |
| EPC / Q2GDE / 002 | The Committee recommends that the Department work closely with Department of Community Safety on how best learners can be protected from the risks of food poisoning and should ensure that vendors are vetted accordingly. The Department to provide the Committee with a report on all reported incidents. | Written response | 30 January 2023 |
| EPC / Q2GDE / 003 | The Committee recommends that the Department put mechanisms in place and provide the committee with a progress report on how parents will be assisted, educated and alerted on illegal independent schools. | Written response | 30 January 2023 |
| EPC / Q2GDE / 004 | The Committee recommends that the Department urgently attend to Brakpan Primary School regarding delipidating infrastructure and provide the committee with a progress report thereof. | Written response | 30 January 2023 |
| EPC / Q2GDE / 005 | The Department is requested to report on the number of vacancies that have not been filled since 2019 and the reasons thereof. The Department should also indicate the levels of these vacancies and how are they impacting the overall functioning of the Department. | Written response | 30 January 2023 |
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# 12 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

12.1 The Portfolio Committee on Education wishes to thank the MEC for Education, Hon. M Chiloane, and his senior officials for the presentation of the 2nd Quarterly report and the substantial and sustained efforts they have made to inform the Portfolio Committee of the details of the quarterly reported.

12.2 The Chairperson, Hon. T Munyai, would like to thank the Honourable Portfolio Committee Members: L Makhubela, William Matsheke, K Ramulifho; S Dos Santos; L Masilela; A De Waal Alberts and DK Adams for their dedication and support during this process.

12.3 The Portfolio Committee would like to thank the Group Committee Co-ordinator, Ms. Zuziwe Pantshwa-Mbalo, Senior Researcher, Ms Sekinah Nenweli, Senior Committee Co-ordinator, Ms. Sharlene Gaya, Committee Co-ordinator, Mr Pheello Mashiloane, Committee Administrator, Mr. Thabo Kekana, Committee Researcher, Mr. Joseph Makhura, Hansard Recorder, Ms. Raksha Singh, Service Officer, Ms. Mavis Nhlapo, Media Officer Mr. Takalani Ndou, Information Officer Mr. Jacky Letsoalo, Public Participation and Outreach Officer Ms. Lindy Tjia, Mr. Lentswe Mothobi and Mr. Siphuxolo Mthwazi for the commitment they have shown during the quarterly report process.

# 13 ADOPTION

In terms of Rule 117 (2)(c) read with Rule 164, the Education Portfolio Committee hereby recommends that the report on the Gauteng Department of Education 2nd Quarterly Report for the 2023-2024 Financial Year, be adopted by the House, taking into account committee concerns and proposed recommendations made in this report.