



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

Street Address: 172 Burger Street,
Pietermaritzburg, 3200
Street Address: 172 Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3200
Postal Address: Private Bag X9043, Pietermaritzburg, 3200
Tel: (27)(33) 355 8652
Fax: (27)(33) 355 0020
Email: happiness.ngwadi@kzntransport.gov.za

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SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO EQUALITY EDUCATION: PROVISION OF SCHOLAR TRANSPORT IN KWAZULU-NATAL.

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to respond to request for information requested by Equality Education with regard to the provision of dedicated subsidised learners transport in the province. Reference is the letter dated 23 February 2015 from Equality Education. .

2. BACKGROUND

The Department of Transport took over the function of the provision of dedicated subsidised learner transport in September 2011, from the Department of Education, after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU states functions of each Department in the provision of learner transport service. The Department of Education is responsible for identification of learners in line with the qualification criteria while the Department of Transport design the services, procure service providers and manage and monitor the contracted services.

3. BUDGET ALLOCATION

The budget allocation for 2013/2014, and 2014/2015 financial year is as follows:

2013/2014- R124 815 000.00

2014/2015- R168, 430, 000

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4. SERVICES PROVIDED

The table below show number of schools and learners benefiting from the programme. Inquthu falls within Umzinyathi District which is highlighted in blue.

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF LEARNERS	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS
1. ZULULAND	3270	14
2. AMAJUBA	2622	22
3. UMZINYATHI	2288	22
4. UTHUKELA	2814	19
5. UMGUNGUNDLOVU	1525	21
6. SISONKE	2274	23
7. UMKHANYAKUDE	3844	20
8. PINETOWN	1617	13
9. ILEMBE	2907	24
10. UTHUNGULU	4210	17
11. UGU	3344	28
12. UMLAZI	4099	17
TOTAL	34 814	240

	INQUTHU	IKAGENG	
		KUFANELESIBONGWE	

5. CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFICATION OF LEARNERS

The policy clearly states that subsidised dedicated learner transport will only be given to learners who are walking more than three kilometres to the nearest appropriate grade/school. This indicates that we only cater for learners that are going to school of need not the school of choice. There are more learners who fall under this category not currently benefiting because of funding constrains. More learners will be added as more funding becomes available.

6. DEDICATED SUBSIDISED LEARNER TRANSPORT APPLICATION PROCESS

The schools apply through their districts. Districts verify the information received from schools. This involves verifying the number of kilometres travelled by learners as well as the number of learners qualifying for the service. The recommended school/s will then be forwarded to Head Office of the

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Department of Education. The Head Office will consolidate the list of all qualifying schools and prepare a submission to the Head of Department for approval. The list is then forwarded to the Department of Transport for Implementation.

7. LEARNER TRANSPORT POLICY

The Department of transport also has a responsibility to develop and implement a Learner transport policy. The Department has developed a draft learner transport policy which has not yet been consulted with stakeholders and the public. This learner transport policy looks and transportation of learners holistically, within the mainstream unsubsidised public transport, mainstream subsidised public transport, dedicated subsidised learner transport, dedicated unsubsidised learner transport and non-motorise transport. When the functions was transferred to the Department of Transport, the process was guided by the provisions of the Draft National Scholar Transport Policy.

8. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF LEARNER TRANSPORT POLICY

The provincial learner transport policy developed by the Department of transport is still on its draft form. It still needs to undergo a processes of internal approval, public inputs and signed off by the Member of the Executive Council for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison. An implementation plan will be developed after the policy is approved and adopted as the official learner transport policy for the province.