TO: CHAIRPERSON: EQUAL EDUCATION
MS YOLISWA DWANE

PROVISION OF SCHOLAR TRANSPORT IN KWAZULU-NATAL


2. Kindly receive the attached report, which serves as a response to your concern.

Kind regards

Nkosinathi SP Sishi, PhD
Head of Department
Date: 2015/04/07
RESPONSE REPORT TO EQUAL EDUCATION ON PROVISION OF SCHOLAR TRANSPORT IN KWAZULU-NATAL

1. PURPOSE
The purpose of this report is to respond to the specific cases that were raised by Equal Education by outlining the processes involved in the provisioning of dedicated Learner Transport Services in KwaZulu-Natal Province.

2. BACKGROUND
In addressing the backlog in the provision of schools in farm areas and rural areas, the Government introduced provision of dedicated Learner Transport Services with a view to increase access to quality learning and teaching. The provision of Learner Transport in this case can be viewed as means to close the school's infrastructural gap in the province. Hence, it should not be regarded as a permanent feature in any schooling environment. The Draft Policy on dedicated Learner Transport indicates that:

(a) Learners who are travelling a distance of more than 3 kilometers per single trip to and from school qualify as beneficiaries;
(b) Learners should be between Grade R to Grade 12 in that current year and registered in a public school; and
(c) Learners are transported to the nearest appropriate Grade school. The learners who are going to the school of choice are not catered for in the policy.

The school of choice being the school where parents in exercising their freedom to choose decide to take their child / children while leaving the school with similar grade within their community.

3. RESPONSES
Inquthu area forms part of UMzinyathi District which has a total of 500 schools. Most of these schools are situated within the communities they serve. Some of these learners are going to school of choice. This will mean that learners do not qualify to be provided with dedicated learner transport.
Out of 500 schools within UMzinyathi District 24 schools are currently benefitting. The under-listed five schools are from Inquthu area:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>EMIS Number</th>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>No. of Learners</th>
<th>Transport Mode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kufanesibonge S</td>
<td>500177600</td>
<td>Nquthu</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>Bus x3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Shekelela P</td>
<td>500261664</td>
<td>Nquthu</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Bus x2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ntinini P</td>
<td>500239982</td>
<td>Nquthu</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>Bus x1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Engudumeni P</td>
<td>500136678</td>
<td>Nquthu</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Mid Bus x1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ikaheng P</td>
<td>500159803</td>
<td>Nquthu</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Bus x1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total number of learners 914

Among the twelve schools mentioned in Equal Education’s letter, only one school that is Mangeni High School, which has learners that qualify for the provision of learner transport. The Department will conduct a verification exercise and subsequently act accordingly.

The development of National policy has been a responsibility of Department of Basic education in liaison with National Department of Transport. It is still in a draft form and therefore not in an implementable stage. However the Department at National level has issued out National Guidelines which are being followed in the implementation of the provision of dedicated learner transport. These guidelines are available to all Districts, Circuits and Schools.

The quota system is no more in use. Head office in liaison with the Districts conducts an audit survey of all learners in need of learner transport. Owing to the huge demand for the provision of learner transport in the province and budgetary constraints, the department has resolved that priority will be given to learners travelling furthest kilometres.

Currently, there are about 240 schools with 34814 learners benefitting from the dedicated learner transport services. The monitoring of the service is conducted by the KZN Department of Transport and we advise that Equal Education request them to
respond to the concerns. The budget and expenditure records are also within the control of the Department of Transport.
ANNEXURE A
19 March 2015

To:
MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal
Ms Neliswa Peggy Nkonyeni
Email: phaka.maphanga@kzndoe.gov.za

To:
MEC for Transport in KwaZulu-Natal
Mr Thembinkosi Willies Mchunu
Email: thobekile.ndzimande@kzntransport.gov.za

Cc:
Head of Department: KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education
Dr. SNP Sishi
Email: nkosi.sishi@kzndoe.gov.za
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Cc:
Head of Department: KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport
Mr Sbusiso Gumbi
Email: Sbusiso.gumbi@kzntransport.gov.za

**RE: PROVISION OF SCHOLAR TRANSPORT IN KWAZULU- NATAL**

Dear MEC Nkonyeni and MEC Mchunu,

1. On 23 February 2015, Equal Education (EE) sent you a letter regarding the lack of scholar transport in Ngquita in particular, and KwaZulu-Natal in general. We attach herewith a copy of our letter for your easy reference.
2. Given the urgency of this matter, we requested that you respond to our letter by 5 March 2015. However, we have not received a substantive response to our letter to date. An acknowledgement of receipt was sent to us by the KZN Department of Education on 23 February 2015, and by the KZN Department of Transport on 24 February 2015.

3. Equal Education is seriously concerned by the lack of provision of scholar transport in Nqutu and other rural areas in KwaZulu-Natal. We believe that the provision of scholar transport should be prioritised and significantly expanded in KwaZulu-Natal, and that the shortage of scholar transport in the province constitutes a violation of learners’ Constitutional right to a basic education.

4. We therefore request that you provide us with a response by no later than Friday 27 March 2015. Furthermore, as stated in our letter of 23 February 2015, we are willing to meet with you and your officials to engage on the issue of scholar transport.

Sincerely,

Yoliswa Dwane
Chairperson

Brad Brockman
General Secretary