



EQUAL  
EDUCATION  
LAW CENTRE

Mrs A Motshekga  
Minister of Basic Education  
By email: [Mabua.S@dbe.gov.za](mailto:Mabua.S@dbe.gov.za)

18 August 2020

Dear Minister Motshekga,

**RE: *EQUAL EDUCATION & OTHERS v MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION & OTHERS* (22588/2020)**

1. SECTION27 and the Equal Education Law Centre, on behalf of Equal Education (EE) and the governing bodies of two Limpopo schools, urge the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and each provincial department of education (PEDs) to engage with the **purpose and spirit of the structural order** handed down in the case of *Equal Education & Others v Minister of Basic Education and Others* (22588/2020) on 17 July 2020 so as to ensure that all learners who qualify for the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) are able to receive each and every meal to which they are entitled.
2. The structural order required the Minister and MECs to each file their plans and programmes for the implementation of the NSNP within 10 days of the court order. The Minister and MECs are further required to file reports every fifteen days from the date of the court order on steps taken to comply with the court order and to implement their respective plans and programmes.
3. The structural order in this case provides an opportunity for an ongoing **to-and-fro, solution-orientated dialogue** between the parties **in the best interests of the learners**. The DBE and the PEDs were required to develop plans and programmes to ensure the effective and comprehensive implementation of the NSNP, which are then made available for scrutiny. The DBE and the PEDs are further required to provide information through

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regular reports to enable all parties to identify issues impacting implementation of the NSNP. This court ordered process, if utilised to its full potential, can facilitate a meaningful engagement between the parties wherein solutions are negotiated to remedy the issues impeding effective implementation.

4. The aforementioned plans and programmes were received from 31 July 2020. The applicants responded to the DBE's plan and programme as well as the plans and programmes from each of the eight PEDs. The responses highlighted concerns with each plan that would impact on the implementation of the NSNP.
5. The first set of reports in terms of the court order were due on 7 August 2020. We note that these have been filed as one consolidated affidavit with annexures on behalf of the DBE and the PEDs (the "Consolidated Report"). We note that the Consolidated Report does provide a more coherent outline of the national plan than that received on 31 July. This national plan however continues to be lacking in detail, in addition, deficits in provincial plans remain. Significantly, the main concern raised by the applicants in our first round of correspondence, being, impediments to the uptake of the NSNP during the school closure, have not been remedied and are cause for increasing concern in the perpetuation of child hunger.

#### **THE POOR UPTAKE OF THE NSNP BY QUALIFYING LEARNERS**

6. The main issue affecting the implementation of the NSNP is reported to be the poor uptake of the programme in the current school closure period which, if not extended, will end on 24 August 2020. The Consolidated Report at page 8 states: "Provinces reported that learners that are not phased-in do not support the programme as intended to cover whole school provision of meals or the collect food parcels at school. The NSNP is ready to implement at full scale but due to fears of COVID-19 parents do not allow learners, or learners themselves do not collect; or long distance prevent learners to come to school which affect numbers of learners receiving meals negatively" (sic). The Consolidated Report does not elaborate on how this issue of poor uptake will be addressed or how the reasons stated by the DBE for the poor uptake were identified as the reasons why learners are not collecting food.

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7. The poor uptake of the NSNP is reflected in Annexure F to the Consolidated Report that provides provincial updates on the feeding of learners. While it is disappointing that no figures are provided for the Eastern Cape, many provinces reflect a very poor uptake in meals by learners. In Limpopo there appears to be a 100% uptake but this is clarified in the annexure to suggest that this figure is indicative of the meals that are provided to each school and are not meals actually collected by learners. A similar approach has been adopted in KwaZulu-Natal. (these numbers are marked with a \* below to denote the inaccurate approach to monitoring in these provinces). As stated in our previous correspondence, we have reports that suggest that no meals are being provided at schools in the Umkhanyakhude District of KwaZulu-Natal, while in Limpopo, learners from a number schools have stated that they are unaware their schools are providing meals during this period. Some of the figures in Annexure F appear to contradict provincial affidavits filed earlier. As an example, Gauteng has said that it is feeding 1.5 million learners, but Annexure F indicates that it is only feeding 117 849 learners.

PROVINCE	NUMBER OF LEARNERS PER DISTRICTS	NUMBER OF LEARNERS RECEIVING MEALS	PERCENTAGE OF QUALIFYING LEARNERS RECEIVING MEALS
NORTH WEST	270 440	63573	23,5%
LIMPOPO	1 595 165	1 595 165	100%*
GAUTENG	1 545 562	117 849	7%
KWAZULU-NATAL	2 349 729	2 347 406	100%*
MPUMALANGA	915 533	700 586	76,5%
FREE STATE	596674	22153	3,7%
NORTHERN CAPE	267 427	17 028	6,3%
WESTERN CAPE	486 799	328 673	67,5%
EASTERN CAPE	NO DATA PROVIDED	NO DATA PROVIDED	UNKNOWN

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8. The concerns in respect of poor uptake have been highlighted in previous correspondence. First, in most provinces, there is inadequate to no communication strategies aimed at learners and caregivers in respect of meal provisioning. Second, the absence of adequate provisioning of transport for learners who live far away from the nearest school is a hindrance. The Limpopo Department of Education in its initial plan undertook to assist with scholar transport, but did not provide any further details. The Consolidated Report does not provide any details of whether such scholar transport is now operational and if it is impacting on the uptake of the NSNP.
9. The Consolidated Report notes that lack of social distancing has impacted on learners not feeling safe to collect food. This is despite the existence of protocols and guidelines necessitating social distancing practices being implemented at schools.
10. It is therefore imperative that the DBE provides guidelines to provinces in respect of the following and each province immediately implements the following:
  - 10.1 **A common approach across provinces for collecting and reporting data regarding meal uptake by learners.** For the NSNP to be effective, provincial updates must accurately reflect the number of meals collected by learners as well as reasons for low uptake in certain areas.
  - 10.2 **An effective communication strategy** that informs learners and caregivers of when meals are provided and whether schools are serving cooked meals or food parcels and how often; steps being taken to ensure learners will be transported to schools and collection times; steps to ensure the safety of learners under COVID-19 and the contact details of school/district/provincial officials that learners and caregivers may contact if there are concerns in respect of the provision of meals.
  - 10.3 **Scholar transport** for learners from far flung areas to school to collect food.
  - 10.4 **Social distancing measures** at school in accordance with developed protocols and guidelines.

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## INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION IN RESPECT OF PROVINCIAL REPORTS AND MONITORING

11. We note that one Consolidated Report does not constitute compliance with the court order. The applicants interpret the court order to require that the DBE provide a report and each PED provides its own context specific report. Furthermore, if PEDs are required to provide reports to the DBE (as stated on pages 3 and 7 of the Consolidated Report), it is uncertain why those reports are not simply attached as part of the court reporting process. For example, in the original DBE plan and in the Consolidated Report, it is stated that PED's must develop province specific implementation plans with various options such as cooked meals, learners collecting meals and provision of food parcels. These reports are not attached and have not been shared with the applicants and the Consolidated Report does not provide this information either. **We request that provincial reports to the DBE detailing the NSNP implementation be included in the court reporting processes.**
  
12. We note at page 6 of the Consolidated Report that Revised Business plans from the PEDs in response to the COVID-19 adjustments were due on 14 August. **The Revised Business Plans should be included in forthcoming reports to ensure that budgets are efficiently allocated for the provision of meals to all qualifying learners in accordance with the court order.**
  
13. We note that Annexure E purports to be provincial monitoring plans but, in fact, just appears to be provincial rosters reflecting annual school visits. They do not specifically report on monitoring during the period of school closures and the phased re-opening of schools and also do not distinguish between planned visits and visits that actually happened. These "monitoring plans" do not reflect what monitoring tools are being used or what data is being collected. The Consolidated Report refers to NSNP monitors being utilised in each province, however the questionnaires completed by monitors and the findings emanating from these visits, are not included in the Consolidated Report. It would be useful if provincial monitoring reports could report on schools not implementing social distancing guidelines and measures taken to remedy this situation. In addition, it would

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be useful if these reports monitored reasons for low uptake and remedies put in place. **The applicants have previously requested that each province provides its provincial monitoring plan and we do so again in this open letter.**

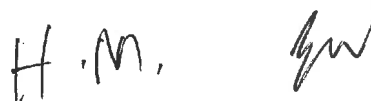
14. The Consolidated Report at page 7 makes reference to the development of the DBE's monitoring strategy referred to as "MRR" that includes monitoring, report and response. No further detail is provided in respect of what MRR entails. The applicants have previously requested that the DBE provide a framework for monitoring the provinces. **Furthermore, details in respect of the MRR strategy as well as data collected should be included in reports filed in court so as to better assess compliance with the court order.**
15. Finally, we urge each province to refer to issues raised here and in correspondence to each province and inform the applicants of steps taken to remedy these issues in future reports.
16. We trust that the DBE and each province will take concerns we have raised seriously and report on immediate steps taken to remedy these concerns. As we noted previously, paragraph 103.13 of the court order authorises the applicants to approach the court for further relief to ensure compliance with the order. If our concerns are not addressed in the next report, we do intend to approach the court for appropriate relief to ameliorate ongoing hunger amongst school children.

Sincerely



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DEPARTMENT OF BASIC  
EDUCATION EQUAL  
EDUCATION- JUDGMENT  
AND COURT ORDER  
COMPLIANCE: NATIONAL  
SCHOOL NUTRITION  
PROGRAMMME

**MINISTER'S REPORT AS AT 26 AUGUST 2020**

H.M. *[Signature]*



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H.M. *[Signature]*

## Introduction

This report serves as the Update Report (2<sup>nd</sup>) to the Gauteng North High Court and contains information on how the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) is implemented/works towards further responding to the letter addressed to the Minister of Basic Education, from Section 27/Equal Education dated 18 August 2020.

## Response to par. 10.1 of Equal Education (EE) letter to Minister, dated 18 Aug. 2020

### Data collection and Reporting

The collection of 'real-time' data on daily feeding, is a challenge within the programme since most provinces use paper-based data collection methods. To maximize on the current technology, the Department of Basic Education (DBE) is in the process of integrating the data on daily feeding through the South African Schools and Administration Management System (SA-SAMS) which was developed 'to provide schools with a cost effective, easy to use and fully integrated computer solution containing all aspects of school management requirements. The SA-SAMS in its current form is not an on-line data systems and provides limited scope on data relating to the school nutrition, with only a few indicators including learners that are fed, menu compliance, preparation areas and safety. A process is underway to work with personnel responsible for SA-SAMS to upload additional NSNP indicators that will be aligned with COVID-19 related activities. Data collection and reporting which is aligned with the Monitoring, Reporting and Responding (MRR) methodology, is discussed in more detail hereunder.

### Monitoring of the NSNP

The National Department has monitored schools and districts through 'spot checks' to assess if meals are served/collected. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, monitoring is conducted via telephones.

More details about the actual monitoring will be provided in the quarterly reports which is due to the Department on 15 October 2020 towards verifying the information received. Provinces are required to provide actual monitoring in their responses to the Court.

Provincial monitoring plans, monitoring tools and reports are used in provinces to compile data on the NSNP implementation in schools. Templates being used for Quarter 2 (July to August 2020) is attached in **Annexure A** that include a monitoring tool, fieldworker/monitor capturing

tool, district summary and provincial summary (excel and word). These are submitted at the end of Quarter 2 for the DBE to consolidate in a quarterly report.

Response to par. 14 of EE letter

Monitoring Response and Report (MRR)

The Monitoring, Reporting and Responding (MRR) is a methodology that is aimed at helping to measure performance at the school level. The key performance indicators (KPIs) focus on “learners served on a daily basis a nutritious meal on time”. There is also lag indicators (supporting indicators) that measure the performance in terms of key areas of implementation (i.e record-keeping and management practices; nutrition education, health and safety; and food gardens). Once information is collected it is captured into the report (R) at all levels (school, district and province). The MRR provides a streamlined method of reporting for uniformity across all provinces. It has been developed whereby tools across provinces were standardised to collect information on the NSNP at school level. This information is then captured by districts, then provinces and submitted to the DBE. This Report is in turn consolidated for the Minister and National Treasury in the quarterly performance reports respectively.

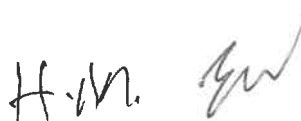
Kindly find the updated MRR slides to include COVID-19 in the monitoring plan for provinces (**Annexure B**) and kindly see the Quarter 1 (April to June) summary report (**Annexure C**). Three provinces, Eastern Cape, Kwa-Zulu Natal and Western Cape did not monitor in the first quarter due to monitors that were restricted and not allowed on school premises during COVID-19 lockdown regulations and restrictions on visits.

## Provincial Business Plans

Response to par. 12 of EE letter

Revised 2020/21 Business Plans

The National Department received eight (draft) revised business plans i.e (EC, FS, GP, KZN, MP, LP, NC, NW) which are in the process of being analysed and assessed for compliance. In terms of the departmental process and Treasury Regulations, the Transferring Officer is required to approve and sign off the amended business plans prior to sending to National Treasury, and after a thorough a process of assessment towards compliance. The DBE awaits the outstanding draft plan (WC) and is yet to complete this process including, giving feedback to each province while ensuring that provinces have aligned their activities with the ‘new



COVID-19 mandate' as per amended NSNP Grant Framework. Therefore, the Department will make available the revised business plans upon approval by the Director-General in forthcoming reports.

Response to par. 10.2 of EE letter

### Communication on NSNP - National & Provinces

Since the re-opening of schools, the National Department has used various communication or media platforms including the DBE website, twitter and Facebook reflecting on day-to-day implementation by various provinces, either when schools are feeding learners or learners collecting meals/food parcel (a detailed Communications Report with images herein as a link).



NSNP Report  
August 2020.pdf

A DBE toll-free campaign below has further been developed which is intended to invite members of the public to report any complaints on the school feeding programme. All complaints will be immediately be given attention, in consultation with Provinces and Districts towards addressing the prevailing circumstance at hand.

UNDER THE COVID-19 CONDITIONS, OVER 9.6 MILLION LEARNERS ARE SERVED AND/OR COLLECT NUTRITIOUS MEALS THROUGH NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMME

If you have any complaints feel free to dial the number(s) below to help address the issue but give the name of school, district etc

**NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMME**

DBE Toll Free no.: 0800 20 29 33  
Tel no.: 012 357 3000

website: [www.education.gov.za](http://www.education.gov.za)  
facebook: [www.facebook.com/BasicEd](http://www.facebook.com/BasicEd)  
twitter: [www.twitter.com/dbe\\_sa](http://www.twitter.com/dbe_sa)

basic education  
Department: Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Read to Lead  
A Reading Nation is a Leading Nation

2010  
NDP

STAY SAFE  
TOGETHER WE CAN SAVE CIVILISATION

H.M. *[Signature]*

## Northern Cape: Example of print media



### Response to par. 10.3 of EE letter

#### Scholar Transport

Since the closure of schools, most provinces did not make arrangements for learners from far flung areas to collect meals using scholar transport except in Limpopo. A message conveyed across provinces was that learners would collect meals to a school nearest to their residential homes. At the Basic Education Indaba meeting hosted by South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) on 17 August 2020, wherein Equal Education made a presentation highlighting shortcomings by the Department not making available scholar transport for learners to collect meals at schools, Mr Mashaba, the Deputy Director-General at the Limpopo Department of Education confirmed that learners were provided with scholar transport to collect meals, and further indicated that this was not cost-effective based on the Cost-Benefit Analysis conducted with findings that the cost for scholar transport is much more than the meal cost. Limpopo NSNP has subsequently suspended the scholar transport. In its current Framework, the NSNP mandate does not include scholar transport with no budget made available by Treasury. This will require synergies with the Department of Transport and line function Branch: Infrastructure, responsible for scholar transport.

With the gradual re-opening of schools and since 24 August 2020, scholar transport will be made available as most learners who are beneficiaries of the NSNP will return to school.

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## Menus

Provincial menus are each year submitted as part of the business planning processes (**Annexure D**). Each province has to submit a menu that complies with provincial preferences and cultural acceptability out of a NSNP food basket.

## Response to par.15 of EE letter

### Steps taken to remedy these issues

#### Virtual Meetings with Counsel, Advocate Oosthuizen and team

##### 12 August 2020 Virtual Meeting

Advocate hosted a meeting with Dr Whittle who invited the NSNP team (Ms Sediti, Director, Ms Mohube and M C Muller, Deputy Directors to give guidance on how next to report to Court. In this meeting, Advocate indicated that in the next Affidavit it will be prudent to highlight how the NSNP works so as to show the Court the magnitude and complexity of 'running' this Programme. Fourteen (14) indicators were identified towards giving guidance for Provinces. A template was subsequently developed for all Provinces to complete for uniformity in data collection. It was further agreed that another virtual meeting with all Provinces be organised for coherence on what is required. The completed templates are herein provided by each Province in response to the reports to the High Court.

##### 14 August 2020 Meeting

The Directorate facilitated the virtual meeting at the DBE office with Counsel, Provincial counterparts and their Senior Managers, (albeit with a challenge of load-shedding, however, the NSNP Director continued meeting with the laptop). Although few Provinces were able to connect to the virtual meeting, the Advocate made clear that the next Report due on 27 August should cover all fourteen (14) indicators including a narrative Report by the DBE. Provinces were also urged to address the issues raised by EE in the letters addressed to their respective MECs.

## Partnerships

The Department of Basic Education has formalised partners in areas of breakfast provisioning, Nutrition Education and advocacy, mobile kitchen donations and monitoring support. The breakfast public private partnerships that provide breakfast in support of the NSNP viz. Kellogg South Africa (4 provinces, 39 schools and 24508 learners); Pioneer Foods (7 provinces, 35 schools and 32 000 learners); Tiger Brands Foundation (9 provinces, 93 schools and 69612 learners), Nutrition Education are supported by Nestle; 131 Mobile kitchen donations are

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supported by MassDiscounters/ Game and monitoring solutions are supported by FUEL. The NSNP does not manage the funding of these projects only receive the donations in kind and monitor the implementation of the projects.

Provincial Education Department has reflected on DBE partners as well as province specific agreements for donations in kind.

Response to par. 11 of EE letter

A summary of Provincial Reports to address phased-in approach and learners not in schools to receive meals


Provinces committed to provide meals to all learners on the programme regardless of phased-in approach. The **table** below indicates the increased uptake of the meals by learners as at 26 August 2020 as part of the lockdown feeding statistics.

<b>DBE report as at 26 August 2020</b>		
<b>Provinces</b>	<b>Learner numbers as per approved 2020/2021 Business Plans</b>	<b>Number of learners receiving meals as 26 Aug</b>
Eastern Cape	1 677 483	345 290
Free State	592 581	516 755
Gauteng	1 170 136	509 918
KwaZulu Natal	2 292 896	1 667 895
Limpopo	1 653 873	1 398 605
Mpumalanga	915 533	915 533
North West	726 756	75 709
Northern Cape	281 294	188 955
Western cape	484 569	373 403

Kindly see proof of consolidated provincial templates as summarised and attached as **Annexure E**.

Eastern Cape

A total of 345 290 learners were provided with cooked meals between 27 July 2020 and 19 August 2020. Volunteer Food Handlers (12 917) were engaged to prepare food for learners in 5014 schools. In terms of communication and advocacy for the NSNP, the province issued

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Instruction Notes 32, 38, 40, 42 to schools to feed all learners and use local social networks as well as the School Governing Bodies (SGBs) and Community Action Networks to reach all school going children.

The Covid-19 pandemic affected the programme to the extent that Monitoring for Quarter 1 was halted. By using the Monitoring, Report and Response (MRR) system, school data will be collected.

With reference to Equal Education issues raised with the province, it has been noted that all matters have been addressed in their report to the Court, except the "findings emanating from these visits (i.e monitoring) are not included'. However, this will be addressed with the Province in the next report".

Free State

A total of 516 755 learners were provided with cooked meals as at 26 August 2020. Volunteer Food Handlers (3446) were engaged to prepare food for learners in 901 schools. Schools are required to complete the COVID-19 feeding register on daily basis and submit it every Friday. The districts are required to complete the COVID-19 feeding tracker and submit it to the Province every Friday. The Province is required to consolidate the district information in the COVID-19 Provincial Feeding Tracker and submit it to DBE.

In communication and advocacy on the NSNP reopening to all learners, the province communicated through: Media releases and press coverage, community radio stations, schools sending sms to parents, and schools sending messages to parents through WhatsApp groups of parents and the provincial Facebook page.

Gauteng

A total of 509918 learners were provided with cooked meals from 17 July 2020 to 26 August 2020. Volunteer Food Handlers (7 965) were engaged to prepare food for learners in 1 629 schools.

The advent of the Covid-19 pandemic has prompted the NSNP to change its standard operating procedures in order to manage the spread of the virus at schools. The NSNP has been affected in three areas of operations name: feeding (serving of food), food preparations, delivery & transportation of food.



In communicating with beneficiaries the province sent communique to School Principals and SGB of schools on the 25th July 2020 instructing them to prepare meals for learners on a daily basis, Principals were also instructed to make the necessary arrangements to ensure that the programme is implemented including communicated this to learners and parents. To ensure communication reaches communities, the department will henceforth utilise the media to broadcast these arrangements to learners and parents.

To prevent exposure to or transmission of the virus, and to strengthen food hygiene and sanitation practices, the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended the promotion of frequent and effective hand washing and sanitation at each stage of food processing. The Directorate therefore procured hand sanitizers, disinfectants and liquid hand soaps for the kitchen to assist volunteer food handlers (VFHs) to adhere to the guidelines as set. VFHs will also be provided with written instructions and training on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

#### KwaZulu-Natal

In Kwa-Zulu Natal 5400 primary, secondary and special schools are provided with NSNP meals. A total of 1 667 895 learners were provided with cooked meals from 27 July – 25 August 2020. The province has employed 15423 Volunteer Food Handlers. Food parcels targeting far flung schools costed R61.38 for primary schools and R76.34 for secondary schools as per meal portions. The province has 45 monitors based in the districts and who monitors the programme implementation across the province.

In consideration of the criminal element and exposing learners thereto and other types of violence and bullying, as well as learners, transport challenges impeded access to food. The province promoted options of parents collecting on behalf of learners and learners themselves to come to school when they are phased-in.

As part of apprising schools and stakeholders about the re-opening of NSNP to all learners including those not phased-in, the province has since issued correspondence including Circulars as discussed in the previous report.

Schools have also been advised in the Orientation manual that they must make verbal announcements to phased-in learners that food is available for other learners. Furthermore, as part of increasing community awareness of the availability of the Nutrition Programme for all eligible learners, the Department has approved the use of communication through media

such as community radio stations, SABC local radio stations and Commercial Radio stations. The Department's messages on the availability and accessibility of Nutrition Programme is currently aired amongst the biggest radio stations in the province namely Ukhozi FM, IGagasi FM and East Coast Radio.

The Department will also issue flyers to schools for learners to take home and some of these flyers will be distributed in local clinics to ensure that communities access information about the availability of the programme.

Limpopo

The Head of Department signed the circular 102 Of 2020 on Feeding of all learners who are beneficiaries –National School Nutrition Programme. It states that all learners in Grade R-12 in quintile 1 to 3 schools who are benefiting in the School Nutrition Programme whether they have re-opened or not should receive daily nutritious meals starting from 25 June 2020. Therefore, the Department urge Principals and SGBs to convey this messages to all learners who are currently at home so that they should come to their schools to receive their meal.

The province is providing cooked meals to 3683 primary, secondary and special schools. A total number of 1 398 605 learners were provided with cooked meals from 27 July – 25 August 2020. The province has employed 10383 Volunteer Food Handlers.

Communication was done through Circulars, radio transmission, Media and Press statements. Circulars were issued via School Principals, dissemination of information through community radio stations and SABC radio. Food stuff were delivered at school for all learners. Grades phased in received/served meals for learners at their respective schools. Parents of Learners not phased were requested to collect food hampers for their children at schools. Description of food parcel package that were distributed to learners were: 1 X 5 kg Maize meal; 6x 400g Pilchards, soya, 1x750ml cooking oil, 1x500g salt

Learner Transport was provided to all learners on learner transport services. Arrangement between parents and service provider were made to time food preparation and serving period. Learners were fed and taken back home immediately after meal. Tiger Brands Foundation donates breakfast in selected schools in Waterberg District (Modimolle and Warmbath Circuits)

## Mpumalanga

In Mpumalanga 1 564 primary, secondary and special schools are provided with NSNP meals. A total of 915 533 learners were provided with meals. The province has employed 5 273 Volunteer Food Handlers.

The outbreak of COVID-19 at the beginning of the year (2020) necessitated revision of the approved 2020/21 business plan in order to cater for the pandemic. As a result, the following new additions were made in the provision of hot meals to learners which follows staggered feeding as informed by the grades and number of learners who are being phased-in.

The province adopted a Hybrid model in order to provide food in a differentiated format to those learners at school and those still at home. This has led to the introduction of food parcels, especially for those learners residing in far-flung areas.

The Department communicated on the NSNP through Intra-departmental communications viz education hotline, circulars and official letters; Departmental Facebook page and twitter; Communication Directorate; District Communication Sub-directorate; Circuit offices and Schools. Other communication used included various media houses such as Ligwalagwala FM, Inkwenkwezi FM, Barberton Community Radio, Nkomazi Community Radio, Rise FM, Bushbuckridge Community Radio; Emalahleni fm; Eyethu fm; Inakekelo fm; Kangala fm; Kanyamazane fm; Mash fm; Mkhondo fm; Mautse fm; Nkomazi fm; RFM; Voh fm; Likwa fm; Voice of the community fm and through the local newspapers (Mpumalanga news, The Lowvelder; Middleburg Observers) as well as the Office of the Premier Webpage Satise Silalele.

## North West

A total of 75 709 learners were provided with cooked meals between 27 July 2020 and 14 August 2020. Volunteer Food Handlers (4 453) were engaged to prepare food for learners in 1 333 schools. In terms of communication and advocacy for the NSNP, the province made use of media releases, radio interviews, Circulars to schools to inform parents and Tribal Authorities as well as Councillors.

The COVID 19 health protocols included deep cleaning and sanitisation of food preparation and storage areas, training of food handlers, collaboration with the Department of Health and District Municipalities and controlled entry into school premises.

#### Northern Cape

A total of 188 955 learners were provided with cooked meals. Volunteer Food Handlers (1 660) were engaged to prepare food for learners in 503 schools.

There was no designated transport for this activity. Learners used the usual learner transport that transport all learners to school and back in the afternoon.


The communication and advocacy on the NSNP included a provincial circulars on NSNP availability, NSNP poster, flyers reminding all NSNP schools to collect cooked meals and a food parcel and a Circular written to request individual parent/ guardian to give permission or declare that their children will/will not collect meals at school. It has been noted that the Province has addressed issues raised by Equal Education letter.

#### Western Cape

The Western Cape Department of Education HOD, Mr BK Schreuder has released a circular dated 24 July 2020 on Break in Schooling that learners can collect meals from school as schools are required to provide the NSNP service. The continuous feeding of all learners are imperative regardless of whether learners have been phased in to school or not.

The Communication Strategy included a letter from the Superintendent General to Principals and in turn, Principals informed parents. Through daily communication and emails and telephonic communication with District Officials (Directors & Circuit Mangers), Principals and NSNP Coordinators as well, use of internet platforms to inform the communities about the opening of the NSNP to all learners.

A total of 373 403 learners average per day were fed a cooked meal from 27 July –21 August. Volunteer Food Handlers (2855) are preparing meals for learners. Principals, Educators and VFH's transported the cooked meals to the nearby farms for the learners. Learners collected food at the closest school. Some farmers brought learners to the schools with the farm's truck. Drivers and Class Assistants distributed the food parcels on various routes. Food parcels were collected on Fridays at schools and learners also received a warm meal. Drivers distributed parcels using school buses. Some rural schools were using school taxis. Due to large distances in rural areas most children cannot walk to the schools and some Principals repackaged the dry products delivered by the service providers into food parcels and delivered the parcel using their own cars or school buses to the learners' homes.

H.M. 

Donations from communities and organisations were also received to aid learners with food parcels.

*In response to the WCED Equal Education letter the province has indicated that the position of Equal Education is problematic on school feeding in the province. The WCED has always placed significant value on the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP). Through their observations and research, a clear relationship between the nutrition and cognitive development as well as the general well-being of learners was established. The research reveals that the NSNP has resulted in increased school attendance. Of course this is an important development in a country where attrition and absenteeism is a worrying phenomenon. During the lockdown the WCED made a case for more funding from provincial treasury to ensure feeding continued whilst the rest of the country stopped the feeding programme.*

The WCDE has continued with provision of meals during lockdown to show the importance placed on the programme.

Annexure A to E

Zip Files attached separately

Annexure A: PED monitoring and summary templates

Annexure B: MRR concept slides

Annexure C: Quarter 1 monitoring summary report

Annexure D: PED menus

Annexure E: PED excel NSNP overview