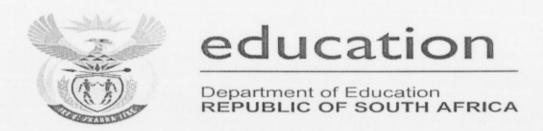
PRESENTATION TO THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE



19 September 2006

Five Year Priorities

- Dealing with poverty
- * Skills development
- **** Human Resources Development**
- **** Quality Improvement**
- * Health Education
- **** Institutional Development**



Amendments to Legal Framework

** Amendments to the SA Schools Act, 1996



- ** Branch reports
 - General Education
 - Further Education and Training
 - Higher Education
 - Quality promotion and Development
 - System Planning and Monitoring
 - Administration



GENERAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING



- Early Childhood Development
- Draft Norms and Standards for the Funding of Grade R in Public Schools were released for public comment.
- Cabinet approved the National Integrated Plan on Early Childhood Development (Tshwaragano ka Bana) as a Cluster programme for implementation by the Departments of Social Development (site registration and payments of stipends), Health and Education.



- Special needs and inclusive education
- District Based Support Teams to support the implementation of Inclusive Education established in all provinces
- National Guidelines for Inclusive Learning Programmes were finalised for field-testing, together with the national Strategy for Screening, Identification, Assessment and Support of learners with special needs.



- Other matters
- The National Protocol on Assessment, which aims to reduce the administrative workload of teachers, has been published
- Guidelines on School Uniforms, which School Governing Bodies should take into account when determining school uniforms, was gazetted. This would ensure that parents are not unreasonably burdened by the cost of school uniforms



- Reading Development
- 5 233 primary schools were provided with sets of 100 Story books
- 751 Grade 9 schools were provided with sets of books from the Africa's 100 Best Books of the 20th Century
- An LTSM Forum comprising stakeholders involved with Learning and Teaching Support Materials was established



- Institutional and Human Resource Development
- The Education Management Policy Framework and the South African Standard for Principalship (an entry-level qualification for principals) were finalised
- National Guidelines for School Governing Body Elections were distributed to provinces in October 2005 in preparation for national SGB elections in 2006



Institutional and Human Resources Development

- 2 million leaflets on the Rights and Responsibilities of Parents, Learners and Public Schools were developed in 11 languages and distributed in all provinces through a range of government and civil routes
- * Handbook for district management produced
- DEMIS tool developed and administered in 2 districts to gather data leading to development of district profiles.



- Institutional and Human Resource Development
- 1200 provincial officials and 40 000 Grade 7 teachers oriented to the NCS through 653 orientation workshops for provincial officials and teachers
- 278 teachers completed an Advanced Certificate in Education (in Maths, Science and Technology), with DoE bursaries
- 2 649 teachers graduated with an NPDE to become professionally qualified (REQV 13)



- Quality Promotion and Assurance
- Systemic evaluation conducted involving a random sample of more than 35 000 (over 5% of population) grade 6 learners across the country. Baseline data for planning and monitoring available on learner performance in the languages of learning and teaching (LOLTs), mathematics and natural sciences collected in the survey
 - National and provincial reports compiled for use by policyand decision-makers
 - Teacher guides in Language, Mathematics and Natural Sciences prepared for use by all grade 6 teachers to address areas for development in learner performance

