

071106 JC BUDGET



education

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The Secretary
Joint Budget Committee
Parliament Street
CAPE TOWN

By fax: 021 403 2142

For attention: P Hahndiek

JBC request for briefing on the 2007 Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS)

Thank you once again for the opportunity provided to the Department to brief the Joint Budget Committee on the 2007 MTBPS. I regret the misunderstanding about the content of the presentation.

It is noted with appreciation that Education features as key priority of Government throughout the presentation of the 2007 Medium Term Budget Policy Statement. In respect of the priority areas that the Department and the Sector submitted to National Treasury for additional funding, the following is noted:

- An additional R2,7 billion is provided as part of the Infrastructure grant to provinces to address school infrastructure needs (page 56 and 57 of the 2007 MTBPS).
- The National School Nutrition Programme is allocated an additional R1,5 billion over the 2008 MTEF to improve feeding in primary schools (page 57).

Although the indicative amounts are less than the request to Treasury, the additional funds are appreciated and will be utilised to the best possible benefit of the Education System.

Some priority areas are mentioned without specifically quantifying the additional allocations. These areas are as follows:

- Improved early learning opportunities (Grade R).
- The collective purchasing of textbooks for Grades 10,11 and 12.
- The occupation-specific salary dispensations for teachers.
- Resources to make public ordinary schools more inclusive and to upgrade facilities in special schools to make them more accessible to learners with disabilities.
- The bolstering of early childhood development in collaboration with the Social Welfare Services.

Based on the priority areas that were submitted, only two areas are not specifically addressed in the 2007 MTBPS, namely the connectivity of FET Colleges, and the increased subsidies to three of the Department's public entities.

The priority given to education and the additional resources for the sector are welcomed, especially in view of the country's budget constraints. The 2007 Medium Term Budget Policy Statement is therefore supported.

Kind regards



Mr D Hindle

Director-General

Date: 06 November 2007