

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

NEGOTIATING MANDATE OF THE EDUCATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL [B23 B- 2007]

1. INTRODUCTION

The National Council of Provinces referred the Education Laws amendment Bill to Limpopo Legislature. The Bill was, upon receipt by the Legislature referred to the Portfolio Committee on Education for consideration.

2. PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The Bill seeks to amend the National Education Policy Act, 1996, so as to substitute the provision relating to consultation on the national education policy; and to amend the provision for the establishment of consultative bodies; to amend the South African Schools Act, 1996, so as to insert certain definitions; to provide for minimum norms and standards for infrastructure and capacity in public schools; to provide for random search and seizure and drug testing at schools; to provide for the functions and responsibilities of a principal; to substitute a reference to obsolete legislation; and to regulate the identification of underperforming schools; to amend the National Student Financial Aid Scheme Act, 1999, so as to effect certain technical adjustments; and to extend the functions of the board to cover eligible students at public further education and training colleges; to amend the South African Council of Educators Act, 2000, the Adult Basic Education and Training Act, 2000, and the General and Further Education and Training Quality Assurance Act, 2001, so as to effect certain technical adjustments; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

3. BRIEFING BY NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES DELEGATION

The Committee was briefed by the NCOP Delegates on the Educational Laws Amendment Bill on 15 October 2007.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A provincial public hearing was conducted at Capricorn District on 02 November 2007 at Bolivia Lodge to grant stakeholders an opportunity to make inputs on the Bill. Various stakeholders including, Further Education and Training Colleges, Institutions of Higher Learning, Business and Political Organized Structures, Teachers' Unions, School Governing Bodies Association, Principals Association, and members of the public made inputs and supported the Bill during the public hearing.

5. FINDINGS

After consideration and based on the views expressed at the public hearing, the Portfolio Committee on Education found that the Bill if passed into law will go a long way in transforming education in the country and therefore supports the Education Laws Amendment Bill.

6. NEGOTIATING MANDATE

The Committee, having gone through and supported the Bill, confers a mandate to the NCOP delegates to negotiate in favour of the Bill as amended by the Portfolio Committee on Education in the National Assembly.

J.T. Ndimande

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CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION