



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
EDUCATION

MEDIA STATEMENT

EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CLARIFIES MAKHANDA CIRCLE OF UNITY COURT ORDER IN RELATION TO NORMS AND STANDARDS FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

24 August 2026

The Eastern Cape Department of Education wishes to provide clarity on the Makhanda Circle of Unity Court Order, administration, allocation and utilisation of **Norms and Standards Funding (NSF)** for public ordinary schools across all quintiles in the province, particularly for the **2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years**.

The Department notes the recent public interest and commentary regarding school funding and considers it important that the broader funding model be properly understood, including the distinction between funding **transferred directly to schools** and the portion of the Norms and Standards Funding that is **retained and administered centrally by the Department for the direct benefit of schools and learners**.

Norms and Standards Funding Across All Quintiles

Norms and Standards Funding is allocated to public ordinary schools in accordance with the applicable national policy framework and the annual per-learner allocation determined for the respective school quintiles.

The funding arrangements apply to schools across **Quintiles 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5**, with allocations determined according to the approved funding framework and learner enrolment.

For each financial year, the total NSF allocation comprises:

- a portion **transferred directly into school bank accounts** for expenditure by schools in accordance with approved school budgets and applicable financial prescripts; and
- a **centralised** portion administered by the Eastern Cape Department of Education for the procurement and provision of essential goods, services and strategic educational interventions on behalf of schools.

For the three financial years under consideration, the funding position is as follows:

Financial Year	Total NSF Allocation	Centralised Portion	LTSM Centralised	Portion Transferred Directly to Schools
2024/25	R2 565 154 156	R875 106 021	R552 663 692	R1 137 384 443
2025/26	R3 206 688 474	R1 247 196 132	R594 448 068	R1 365 044 274
2026/27	R2 756 028 407	R1 084 717 661	R543 392 250	R1 127 918 496

The Department emphasises that the **centralised portion remains part of the Norms and Standards Funding envelope and is spent directly for the benefit of schools and learners**. It should therefore not be interpreted as funding that has been removed from the education system or diverted away from schools.

Per learner allocation

Financial Year	Per Learner Allocation	Centralised Portion	Portion Transferred Directly to Schools
2024/25- Q 1-3	R1 672	R 502	R1 170
Q 4	R838	R 168	R670
Q 5	R289	R 58	R231
2025/26 Q 1-3	R1754	R592	R1 162
Q 4	R879	R 200	R679
Q 5	R301	R 68	R233
2026/27 Q 1-3	R1 835	R734	R1 101
Q 4	R919	R 276	R643
Q 5	R315	R 95	R221

Payment of NSF to Schools

The portion of the NSF allocation that is transferred directly to schools is paid annually in **two tranches**:

First tranche: May

Second tranche: November

This payment arrangement enables schools to receive funding during the course of the financial year while the Department simultaneously provides centrally procured goods, services and educational support.

What the Centralised NSF Budget Funds

The centralised component of the Norms and Standards Funding is utilised to ensure that essential resources and specialised interventions are available across the Province, while achieving economies of scale and promoting equitable access to resources.

The centralised budget is used, amongst others, for the following:

1. Provision of textbooks to all public schools

The Department centrally procures textbooks to ensure that learners across all quintiles have access to the prescribed learning and teaching materials required for curriculum delivery.

2. Provision of scholastic stationery to Quintile 1, 2 and 3 schools

As part of its support to no-fee and disadvantaged schools, the Department centrally procures scholastic stationery for learners attending Quintile 1, 2 and 3 schools.

3. Learner Attainment Improvement Strategy

Funding is provided for targeted academic interventions aimed at improving learner performance. This includes support provided to all schools through different support programmes such as additional tuition, extra lessons, weekend classes /camps and other learner attainment initiatives.

4. Support to Agricultural Schools

Specialised agricultural schools require specialised resources, equipment and programme-specific support beyond the ordinary operational requirements of schools. These interventions are supported from the centralised budget.

5. Support to Maritime Schools

The Department provides targeted resources and programme support to schools offering maritime-related education and skills development.

6. Support to Technical Schools

Technical schools require specialised machinery, equipment, consumables and learning resources. The centralised funding mechanism assists the Department in providing these resources in a coordinated manner.

7. Support to the Aviation School

Specialised aviation education and training requirements are also supported through the centrally administered budget.

8. Provision of school furniture

The Department procures and supplies furniture for both **learners and educators**, including desks, chairs and other essential classroom furniture, based on assessed school needs.

9. Municipal account support and bailouts

Where schools experience serious financial difficulty in meeting municipal obligations and there is a risk of disruption to schooling through the interruption of essential services, the Department provides targeted financial interventions and bailouts to address outstanding municipal payments.

10. Provision of tablets to Grade 12 learners

The centralised allocation supports the provision of digital learning devices, including tablets for Grade 12 learners, as part of the Department's efforts to expand access to digital educational resources and strengthen learner preparation for the National Senior Certificate examinations.

11. ICT and E-learning support to schools

The Department funds Information and Communication Technology support, infrastructure and related services to strengthen teaching, learning and school administration.

Centralised Funding is Expenditure on Behalf of Schools

It is important to distinguish between a **cash transfer to a school's bank account and the total value of resources made available to that school**.

A school may receive a specified amount directly into its bank account while simultaneously benefiting from textbooks, stationery, furniture, digital devices, academic support programmes, municipal assistance and other services procured centrally by the Department.

Accordingly, an assessment of school funding based only on the amount reflected as a cash transfer into the school's bank account does not necessarily represent the **full value of Norms and Standards resources directed to that school and its learners**.

The centralised portion of the NSF budget therefore represents expenditure undertaken **on behalf of and for the benefit of public schools**, rather than a reduction in the province's commitment to funding education.

Makhanda Circle of Unity case the court order

The Department is fully aware of the Makhanda Circle of Unity case, and the department has to prepare the schools for the decentralised procurement processes in 2027 for the implementation in 2028 Academic Year.

In the Makhanda Circle of Unity case the court ordered that the Department acted unlawfully by withholding 33.75% of public schools funding allocation from 2022. With immediate effect the Department must ensure that every school is provided a school allocation calculated on the basis of the at least the prevailing minimum per learner target amount contemplated in the Norms and Standards for School Funding as applicable to that school's quintile.

The order did not state that the Department must pay back any monies to schools for the previous years and for the current year.

The department is in the process of consulting all schools, through the Circular 10 of 2026, for the schools wishes to opt out from the centralised procurement shall make a representation by providing the evidence of pricing is cheaper than the centralised procurement for them to be considered for decentralisation of the LTSM procurement.

Supporting Equity Across the Province

The Eastern Cape operates one of the country's largest public education systems, with schools located across urban, rural and deeply rural communities. Many schools face significant socio-economic and infrastructure challenges.

Centralised procurement enables the Department to respond strategically to these challenges, particularly where bulk procurement can secure better value for money, promote standardisation, strengthen accountability and ensure that schools with limited procurement capacity are not disadvantaged.

It also enables the Department to direct additional support towards vulnerable schools and specialised institutions whose needs cannot always be adequately addressed through ordinary cash transfers alone.

Commitment to Transparent and Sustainable School Funding

The Eastern Cape Department of Education remains committed to ensuring that available education resources are used responsibly, equitably and in the best interests of learners.

The Department will continue to engage with schools, School Governing Bodies, organised stakeholders, National Treasury, the Department of Basic Education and other relevant institutions to strengthen the school funding model and ensure that schools receive the resources required to provide quality teaching and learning.

The Department further reiterates that the Norms and Standards Funding model must be understood as comprising both **direct transfers to schools and centrally administered expenditure undertaken for schools**.

The Department has noted with concern attempts by some opposition parties and other commentators to use the recent court order to advance a narrative that does not fully reflect either the contents of the order or the broader funding arrangements applicable to public schools in the Eastern Cape.

The Department is particularly concerned by statements which, in its view, misrepresent, distort or selectively present aspects of the court order in a manner that may create the impression that funds intended for schools were simply removed from the education system. As explained above, centrally administered Norms and Standards Funding has continued to be utilised for the direct benefit of schools and learners through the provision of textbooks, stationery, furniture, learner attainment programmes, ICT resources, municipal support and other critical educational interventions.

The Department rejects any deliberate attempt to mislead the public, fabricate an inaccurate picture of the funding position, or twist the facts for political purposes. Such conduct risks unnecessarily undermining public confidence in the education system and nullifying the considerable progress that the Department, together with its social partners and stakeholders, has begun implementing across the Province.

The Department respects the courts and remains committed to implementing lawful court orders. At the same time, the Department believes that court judgments and orders must be communicated to the public accurately, responsibly and in their proper context. The interests of learners and the stability of the education system should not be compromised through misinformation or political contestation.

The Eastern Cape Department of Education wishes to express its sincere appreciation to its social partners, organised labour unions, School Governing Bodies, education stakeholders, implementing partners, development partners, donors and communities who continue to work alongside the Department in strengthening education in the province.

The Department values the commitment and continued support demonstrated by these partners in building a strong, relevant, responsive and sustainable education system that places the interests of learners at its centre.

The progress being made in education cannot be achieved by government acting alone. It requires a collective effort involving educators, organised labour, parents, communities, civil society, the private sector, donors and all other stakeholders who share the responsibility of improving educational outcomes for every learner in the Eastern Cape.

This partnership approach is firmly aligned with the vision of the Eastern Cape Department of Education:

"All learners provided with opportunities to become productive, responsible, and competitive citizens through an inclusive quality basic education system."

The Department's mission similarly emphasises the mobilisation of community and stakeholder support through participation and the institutionalisation of a culture of accountability throughout the Department.

The Department therefore calls upon all stakeholders to continue working together constructively and responsibly, focusing their collective efforts on improving teaching and learning, strengthening school governance, ensuring responsible utilisation of public resources and delivering the quality education that the children of the Eastern Cape deserve.

The Department remains committed to transparency, accountability and constructive engagement with all stakeholders as it continues implementing programmes aimed at strengthening the provincial education system.

ISSUED BY:

EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



A NATION
THAT WORKS
FOR ALL



MUSICAL SHOWCASE: Selborne Primary School pupils are gearing up for 'LeNgoma'.

Picture: SUPPLIED

'LeNgoma' brings Selborne Primary music to Guild

NWABISA MAHLAMBENI

More than 100 Selborne Primary School pupils will take to the stage at the Guild Theatre on Tuesday for *LeNgoma*, a concert celebrating the school's 17-year music tradition and the role of the performing arts in developing young talent.

The showcase will bring together the school's marimba and wind bands, junior choir, ensembles and soloists, giving pupils an opportunity to perform in front of their families and the wider community.

Head of culture and music at Selborne Primary, Germaine Gamiet, said the concert was intended to celebrate more than the pupils' musical abilities.

"It's really to celebrate the culture of music at the school, and community," Gamiet said.

He said the event would provide an opportunity for the school community to come together through music, while showcasing the work pupils and the music department had put into their performances.

The school's music department has been developing for 17 years, with Selborne previously hosting different forms of musical showcases.

However, *LeNgoma* marks the first time the department will present a concert at the Guild Theatre.

The move to a professional stage will be particularly significant for pupils

who have never performed in a theatre environment before.

"Many of them have never performed on a professional stage," Gamiet said. The pupils will also have an opportunity to go backstage and see the technical side of putting on a professional production.

Gamiet said the experience was ultimately about creating lasting memories while exposing pupils to possibilities beyond their immediate school environment.

The school uses music as a central part of its academic programme, with the department aiming to develop pupils beyond their classroom studies.

Gamiet said music taught pupils discipline through learning and practising instruments, while also helping them develop their ability to work with others, use their imagination and strive for excellence.

The concert is also expected to lay the groundwork for future collaboration, with the school hoping to establish *LeNgoma* as an annual event and potentially involve other schools.

For the pupils, the Guild Theatre stage will be more than a performance venue.

It will be a chance to showcase their talent, experience professional theatre and create memories with their peers, families and teachers.

● Tickets for *LeNgoma* are available through Webtickets.

BID NOTICE
King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality hereby calls upon accredited service providers to bid for the following tender advert:

No.	Project Name	CIDB Grading	Evaluation Criteria	Compulsory Briefing Session/site inspection	Bid Number	Closing Date	Enquiries
1.	ISDG Electrical engineering mentor services for a period of three (03) years.	N/A	80/20	N/A	SCM: 001/2026/27	Date: 05/10/2026 Time: 12H00	Technical Enquiries may be directed to: Mr. M. Shweni (Technical services) Email: shwenim@ksd.gov.za
2.	ISDG Town planning mentor services for a period of three (03) years.	N/A	80/20	N/A	SCM: 002/2026/27	Date: 05/10/2026 Time: 12H00	Technical Enquiries may be directed to: Mr. M. Shweni (Technical services) Email: shwenim@ksd.gov.za
3.	ISDG Civil engineering mentor services for a period of three (03) years.	N/A	80/20	N/A	SCM: 003/2026/27	Date: 05/10/2026 Time: 12H00	Technical Enquiries may be directed to: Mr. M. Shweni (Technical services) Email: shwenim@ksd.gov.za

Place of Tender box: **1st Floor, Munitata Building, Next to Room 146.** All bids must be sealed and clearly marked with SCM Number and Project Name and be placed in a tender box. Tender documents can be downloaded free of charge from the National Treasury's tender portal (<http://www.etenders.gov.za/content/advertised-tenders>) and the King Sabata Dalindyebo website (www.ksd.gov.za) as from the 31st of August 2026.

NO HARD COPIES OF THE TENDER DOCUMENT ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE. ONLY THE ELECTRONIC VERSION WHICH IS TO BE DOWNLOADED AS PER THE ABOVE WEBSITES IS TO BE USED.

BIDDERS MUST TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING BID CONDITIONS:

- Failure to submit comprehensive JV agreement (where applicable), failure to do so will result in a tender deemed non-responsive.
- Individual partners of JV are to comply and submit all relevant documents, failure to do so will result in a tender deemed non-responsive.
- Failure to complete properly and/or in full tender forms, MBD 1 to MBD 9 and Annexures A to F will result in a tender deemed non-responsive.
- Failure to declare in MBD 4 companies involve in, will result in a tender deemed non-responsive.
- Bidders must sign MBD 5 for any offer amounting or exceeding R10 million. "If the value of the transaction is expected to exceed R10 million - VAT included), require bidders to furnish- if the bidder is required by law to prepare annual financial statements for auditing, their audited annual financial statements -for the past three years; or since their establishment if established during the past three years.
- Bidders holding a CIDB grading of Level 6 or higher who are a legible to work allocation of more than R10 million must submit audited financial statements for the past three (3) financial years.
- In cases where a bidder has already been awarded work and the Employer issues a subsequent advertisement to appoint additional bidders to the panel, such awarded bidders shall not submit new bids, as they are already appointed on the panel.
- The bidder to submit Audited financial statements for the past three financial years for any offer amounting to or exceeding R10 million inclusive of VAT.
- Failure to submit or complete supplementary information will result in the tender being null, void and non-responsive.
- Bidders must submit latest municipal rates statement (not older than three months) showing that municipal rates are not in arrears for periods in excess of three months. bidder who operate on leased properties are to submit a valid lease agreement and bidders residing on areas not subjected to Municipal rates are to submit a confirmation from the Municipality's Finance Department confirming that such a bidder is not liable for municipal rates, lastly bidders must provide municipal rates statement of the director's properties, failure to do so will result tender deemed non-responsive.
- The KSD Municipality reserves the right to disqualify any service provider whose members and or shareholders owe municipal rates & taxes.
- The KSD Municipality does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any bid and reserves the right to accept the whole or part of the bid or to withdraw the bid.
- All certified copies submitted with a tender document must not be older than six months, failure to do so will result tender deemed non-responsive.
- All alterations in prices/quotes must be signed for and failure to sign will result in tender deemed non-responsive.
- Use of erasing fluids is prohibited, and the bidder will be deemed non-responsive.
- Bid document must be filled in black pen and are not to be typed in.
- Bids submitted will hold good for a period of 90 days.
- Failure to be registered on Central Supplier Database registration will result in a tender being disqualified.
- Bids that are late, incomplete, unsigned, or submitted by fax, mail or electronically including copy of a tender document, will not be accepted.
- All bidders who fail to attend compulsory briefing sessions where applicable their bids will be disqualified.
- All bidders who fail to declare local production and content where applicable their bids will be disqualified.
- All bids must be sealed and clearly marked with SCM Number and Project Name and be placed in a tender box; failure to do so the document will be disqualified.
- In terms of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act 2022 (PPPPA) Points will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
 - Stage 1 Compliance.
 - Stage 2 Functionality (with a minimum threshold of 70 points out of 100 points to be attained by bidder in order to be evaluated further on the next stage).
 - Stage 3 Price and Specific goals. (Proof of attainment - Full Central Supplier Database report)
 - All queries must be in a form of an e-mail, and there will be no queries that will be entertained 5 working days before the closing date.
 - The total cost based on rates calculated in the pricing schedule must match the amount reflected on the front page of the bid (Bid price). Failure to provide a match total cost based on rates will render the bid non-responsive.
 - The tender will be evaluated and adjudicated on the basis of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework
- Act, and the regulations pertaining thereto (2022 Regulations), as well as the King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality's Supply Chain Management policy. The preference point system to be used is specified for each project as per the KSDLM SCM policy.

SCM related enquiries may be directed to the SCM Unit at pilani@ksd.gov.za

N. Pakade (Mr.)
Municipal Manager