FREE STATE LEGISLATURE

FREESTATE -VRYSTAAT-FOREISTATA

# FREE STATE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

# REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO THE FREE STATE LEGISLATURE WITH REGARD TO THIRD QUARTERLY NON-FINANCIAL REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENTS: HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR 2024/2025 FINANCIAL YEAR

**21 AUGUST 2025**

**REPORT PROFILE**

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| **Title of Report:** | Report of the Portfolio Committee on Education, Health and Social Services with regard to third quarterly non-financial reports of the Departments: Health, Education and Social Development for 2024/2025 financial year |
| **Responsible Cluster:** | Portfolio Committee on Education, Health and Social Services. |

**Report Compiled by and on:** Fuzile Ngangelizwe on the 22 May 2025

**Report checked and edited by:**

**Report for tabling in the Legislature on:**

**TO THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER AND HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE FREE STATE LEGISLATURE**

The Portfolio Committee on Education, Health and Social Services herewith tables its report regarding the third quarterly non – financial reports for 2024/2025 financial year of the departments of Health, Education and Social Development. Portfolio Committee could not have presented this report without valuable contribution of the Honourable MEC. M.V. Mahlatsi for Health, Honourable MEC. M. Leeto for Social Development and Honourable MEC. M.J Maboya MEC for of Education, Hon Members of the Portfolio Committee on Education, Health and Social Services and officials of the departments, as well as support services rendered by the staff of the Free State Legislature.

**MAPHEULE, L**
**CHAIRPERSON**

**MEMBERS:**

**SIGWEBELA, Z.**

**GAREGOE, N. J**

**MEEKO, T**

**NDUNGANE, N**

**KHOABANE, M. D**

**CLOETE, A. B**

**MKHABELA, D**

**LEECH, D**

**FOKO, M. J**

**MASOEU, D**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Portfolio Committee on Education, Health and Social Services met with the departments of Health, Social Development and Education on the 20 May 2025 to consider third quarterly non-financial reports for 2024/2025 financial year as per the provisions of Standing Rules and Orders of the Free State Legislature.

## 2. MEMBERS OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE

*The Portfolio Committee comprises the following members:*

Hon. A. Cloete

Hon. D. Leech

Hon. D. Masoeu

Hon. D. Mkhabela

**Hon. L. Mapheule (Chairperson)**

Hon. M. D. Khoabane

Hon. M. Foko

Hon. N. J. Garekoe

Hon. N.Ndungane

Hon. T. Meeko

Hon. Z. Sigwebela

## 3. PROCEDURE OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE

The Portfolio Committee on Education, Health and Social Services met the Departments of Health, Education and Social Development on the 20 May 2025 to consider the third quarterly non-financial reports for 2024/2025 financial year. The Committee was provided with second quarterly performance analysis reports for the 2024/25 financial year by the Office of the Premier. The performance analysis reports were for the Departments of Health, Education and Social Development.

## 4. CONSIDERATION OF THE SECOND QUARTERLY REPORTS

### 4. 1. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

### 4. 1. 2. Observations/ Findings

Programme 1 - Administration
Programme 2 - District Health Services
Programme 3 - Emergency Medical Services
Programme 4 - Provincial Hospitals
Programme 5 - Central Hospitals
Programme 6 - Health Sciences and Training
Programme 7 - Health Care Support Services
Programme 8 - Health Facilities Management

The department was requested to prepare responses through the questionnaire which was prepared and sent to them by the Committee researcher. During the appearance of the department before the Committee, the department was then requested to present those prepared responses on the second quarterly non-financial report for the period 2024/25 financial year. After presentation on second quarterly non-financial report, the committee observed the following:

1. The Department of Health submitted both the electronic and the signed off hard copies of their second quarterly non-financial report on prescribed date.
2. The withdrawal of USAID funding by US President may have negative impact on the availability and distribution of chronic medication such as HIV and AIDS and many other chronic diseases.
3. High vacancy rate in mental department and unavailability of a proper plan in addressing this challenge.

4. Refurbishment work to the National Hospital Cluster of Projects started in 2017 and these projects were done in phases.
5. Huge gap between the department and the communities in relation to awareness health issues and services rendered by the health department to the people.
6. The Implementation Guide for the Preferential Procurement Regulations of 2022 issued by the National Treasury permits the Accounting Officer of an institution to define the application of the specific goals in his/her procurement policy.
7. It does not look like the public private partnership on infrastructure project will come to an end at Pelonomi.
8. Sometimes patients spend two to three days at casualty without being attended to.
9. The snail pace and lethargic progress by contractors on infrastructure projects in Pelonomi is worrisome.
10. The department always provide same answers, the committee is not happy and must change and start to report on progress made.
11. No progress made as it was promised on rolling out the concept of one ward one ambulance in all districts.
12. Primary health care will never be resolved without intergovernmental approach in addressing socio economic conditions to the destitute people.
13. The Department already trained a total of 3660 employees during 2023/2024 financial year and 3359 during 2024/25 financial year on Code of Conduct, Grievance Procedure and Disciplinary Code.
14. Health care providers help prevent and manage malnutrition through education, care, monitoring and support.
15. The Department implements UTT (Universal Test and Treat) to ensure that clients who tested HIV positive are initiated on ART the same day.
16. Booking system and Pre-retrieval of files is implemented for clients already on ART at the health facilities.
17. The Department is implementing Differentiated models of care to ensure that stable clients are decanted.
18. Multi month dispensing of ART is implemented to reduce clients visit at the facility.
19. Decanting of stable patients to pick up points (PUP) preferably external ones for collection of their ARVs at their chosen PUPs through the CCMDD (Central Chronic Medicine Dispensing and Distribution) programme.
20. The Department is delivering ARVs to the patients' households through the departmental Community Health Care workers.

21. The Department has developed referral pathways at sub-district and facility level to refer clients to social workers at both Social Development and Health.
22. The Department has further appointed 34 social workers across all the districts to also assist with psycho-social interventions to improve adherence to treatment and viral load suppression.
23. The treatment of Pre-XDR is more complex because clients are resistant to 3 to 4 drugs used to treat MDR. Some of the clients are also HIV positive
24. Vitamin A is provided to children below 5 years by either CHW or nurses during health campaigns, community outreach services to early childhood centres and households.
25. Audits are performed for every official on termination of service.
26. During a financial year, random leave audits are conducted by PERSAL Audit.
27. The Corporate HRM Directorate provides quarterly support visits to various districts to monitor compliance with HR prescripts on a variety of HR topics, including leave administration.
28. There are workshops on leave management and practices conducted on an annual basis.
29. On a weekly basis, the HRM Directorate monitors the performance of institutional and district HR offices on conducting personnel leave audits with the aim of addressing challenges which negatively impact on performance
30. Interactive-Learning Communication and Management ICAM was installed to assist with the implementation of the Skills Development Act, communication, management and training.
31. The system consists of a centralised broadcast studio, and the transmission and feedback infrastructure connecting the studio to distant learning centres.
32. Standardised educational material is transmitted in real time via the transmission infrastructure to be viewed by students at all the distant learning centres throughout the targeted geographical area.
33. The total performance for the Department of Health in the 2nd quarter of 2024/2025 financial year is 60%.

### 4.1.3. RCOMMENDATIONS

1) Intensify training programme for your employees to avoid underperformance.
2) The department must issue monthly invoices to Lesotho government for services rendered to Lesotho nationals.

3) Collaboration between communities and the department for health awareness programme can reduce the level of defaults in medication.
4) The department must move with speed to address the shortage of staff in mental department.
5) The department must expeditiously intervene on patients spending some days at casualty without any attendance.
6) Intergovernmental approach in addressing primary health care can only be realised if all relevant department can stop a silo approach.
7) The Department must give priority to all observations and challenges identified by the committee.
8) The Department need to reduce its commitments and accruals and payables to be in line with the budget allocated to meet the requirements of 30-day payments.

**CHALLENGES**

1) Shortage of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) due to budgetary constraints.
2) The full roll-out of one ward one ambulance is delayed due to budgetary constraints.
3) Unaffordability of quotations submitted by contractors to the department continues to impact negatively on progress in Pelonomi infrastructure projects, therefore the procurement process had to be started again.
4) Porous borders between Lesotho and South Africa poses serious burden in health facilities of the Free State.
5) The Department has a historical challenge of unauthorised expenditure that has led to the Cash vs Budget imbalance. The Department also is over committed in relation to the budget allocation versus the mandate of Health services to the Free State citizens.
6) Delays in some of the departmental programmes are due to human resource processes.
7) The shortage of personnel required to improve the EMS P1 urban response times will take time to be addressed. However, HR has already begun the process by identifying the number of EMS vacant and funded posts available.
8) The current population of the Free State is 2.9 million, and the norm and standard to cover the population and to meet the public health needs is a ratio of 1:10 000 (1 ambulance per 10 000 population)
9) The Free State requires 291 ambulances that provide proper coverage for the current population, while it operates 149 ambulances and has 1 523 EMS officials.

10) There is a need to have 2 328 officials to operate the 291 ambulances needed for the current population of the Free State Province. The filling of all posts will be aligned to the available budget.
11) Lack of a structured training on PSI's management leads to non-adherence to the policy.
12) Representative of the Occupational health and Safety division operates on an ad-hoc basis.

## 4.2 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The department was requested to prepare responses through the questionnaire which was prepared and sent to them by the Committee researcher. During the appearance of the department before the Committee, the department was then requested to present those prepared responses on the second quarterly non-financial report for the period 2024/25 financial year. After presentation on second quarterly non-financial report, the committee observed the following:

### 4. 2. 1. Observations/Findings

Programme 1 – Administration
Programme 2 – Social Welfare Services
Programme 3 – Children and Families
Programme 4 – Restorative Services
Programme 5 – Community Development

1) The Department of Social Development submitted both the electronic and the signed off hard copies of their second quarterly non-financial report on prescribed date.
2) The Department of Social Development lacks a pragmatic program to work in collaboration with other sister departments in order to address socio economic conditions as well as social ills in poverty-stricken areas.
3) Official admitted late reporting of the statistics and the department undertook informal disciplinary action and counselling provided to the implementer.
4) Managers social workers conduct monthly monitoring of reports prior submission to Provincial Managers.
5) The child support grant is R560, and the Top-up Grant is R260, total Child Support Top-up grant is R820 per child.
6) Top-up grant is not for children under foster care but is an additional financial aid provided to caregivers of orphans and is administered and monitored by the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA).

7) Registration and Monitoring of partial care facilities is a dual responsibility of the relevant officials in the District and Province.
8) Quality Developmental assurance which undertaken on quarterly, beneficiaries are receiving services both at Day Care centre and Child and Youth Care Centre.
9) Deregistration in this financial year was a corrective measure to address duplication of services received by beneficiaries at Itekeng Disability centre in Ficksburg.
10) 5 new partial care facilities were registered and funded, 4 in Thabo Mofutsanyana, 1 in Mangaung, with the available budget of R 827 500.00.
11) The department and relevant stakeholders collaborating with other departments in conducting 365 days awareness campaigns on GBV and other social ills.
12) The total performance for the Department of Social Development in the 2nd quarter of 2024/2025 financial year is 85%

### 4.2.2 RECOMMENDATION

1) The department of Social Development must begin to forge a solid partnership with other sister departments and attend to issues of social ills such as drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, gender base violence, human trafficking, etc.
2) The Department must strengthen its reporting mechanisms of the statistics to avoid late reporting on statistics and implement necessary actions to those who continues to fail to report according to prescribed timeframe.

## 4. 3. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The department was requested to prepare responses through the questionnaire which was prepared and sent to them by the Committee researcher. During the appearance of the department before the Committee, the department was then requested to present those prepared responses on the second quarterly non-financial report for the period 2024/25 financial year. After presentation on second quarterly non-financial report, the committee observed the following

### 4. 3. 1 Observation/ Findings

Programme 1: Administration
Programme 2: Public ordinary Schools
Programme 3: Independent Schools
Programme 4: Public Special Schools
Programme :6 Infrastructure Development

1) The Department of Education submitted both the electronic and the signed off hard copies of second quarterly non-financial report on prescribed date.
2) The department failed to achieve its target on number of public schools that uses SASAMS or any alternative electronic solution to provide data.
3) Failed to achieve intended target on number of public schools that can be contacted electronically.
4) Failed to achieve its target on number of teachers provided with ICT devices, the delivery of ICT devices will continue during the 4th quarter.
5) Failed to achieve its target on number of Office based educators provided with ICT devices, the delivery will be done in the 4th Quarter.
6) The department continued to fail to achieve its target in terms of the number of schools provided with multi-media resources.
7) The department overachieved its target on number of foundation phase teachers trained in reading methodology, this overachievement is attributed to the partnership with Jolly Phonics.
8) The department failed to achieve its target on percentage of learners with access to required maths textbooks in Grades 6, 9, & 12 due to fewer schools captured textbooks on SASAMS.
9) The department failed to achieve its target on the number of learners subsidized at registered independent schools due to parents choosing to de-register learners from independent schools during the year.
10) Failed to achieve its target on number of schools of skills implementing the technical occupational stream because Motheo has identified a school in Botshabelo and learner admission and provisioning of equipment is underway.
11) The department failed to achieve its target in terms of the number of public schools provided with electricity infrastructure due to contractors receiving appointment letters at the end of November.
12) Postponements in the installation of generators in some schools due to the delay in delivery of generators.
13) The department failed to achieve its target on number of Security fences constructed.
14) Failure for the department to present/table infrastructure projects for the year under review was a concern for the committee.
15) Lack of facilities such as sport fields and social programmes for children faced with social ills in our informal settlement.
16) No adequate budget reserved for Early Childhood Development Centres in order to prepare grade 12 learners.
17) There are allegations of continuous sexual abuse by educators and corporal punishment.

18) Some of the learners with physical impairment do not have necessary learning and reading materials.
19) National Senior Certificate 2024 (NSC) results will be made available in the fourth quarter.
20) The total performance for the Department of Education in the 3rd quarter of 2024/2025 financial year is 60%.

**CHALLENGES**

1) Public works has got capacity challenges.
2) Projects over R10 million belong to public works.
3) Sport facilities are a huge challenge.
4) Learner high pregnancy rate.
5) Sexual abuse by educators.

### 4.3.2.RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends that:

1) The department must also present the departmental projects; this will assist the committee to form a solid base for an effective oversight programme of the Committee.
2) The department must ensure that History subject becomes compulsory and be prioritised in our schools
3) The department must begin to develop/establish various sporting facilities and bring in children affected or faced with social ills to participate in different sporting activities.
4) The department must invest more resources in Early Childhood Development in preparation for grade 12 learners.
5) The department must develop an effective school policies and procedures to fight against any form of sexual abuse and corporal punishment in our schools.

The Portfolio Committee on Education, Health and Social Services recommends that the report as tabled be adopted by the house.