



FREE STATE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

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

21 AUGUST 2025

REPORT PROFILE

Title of Report: Report of the Joint Portfolio Committee on Education, Health and Social Services with regard to second 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.

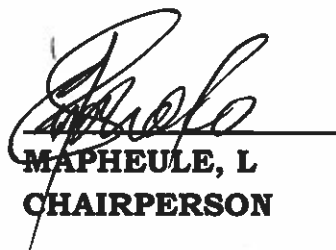
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Report for tabling in the Legislature on:

**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 second 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.




MEEKO, T



KHOABANE, M. D



MKHABELA, D



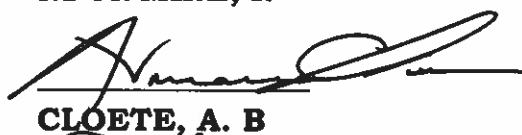
FOKO, M. J



GAREGOE, N. J



NDUNGANE, N



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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 second 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 second 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 this must change and provide progress report.
- 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.
- 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 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 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.
- 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

5. Programme 1 – Administration
 6. Programme 2 – Social Welfare Services
 7. Programme 3 – Children and Families
 8. Programme 4 – Restorative Services
 9. 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 Itsekeng 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 89%

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 and Findings

Programme 1: Administration

Programme 2: Public ordinary Schools

- 1) The Department of Education submitted both the electronic and the signed off hard copies of their second quarterly non-financial report on prescribed date
- 2) The department on programme 1 (Administration) could not be able achieve its target on number of public schools that uses SASAMS due to Duikfontein and Utopia closed.
- 3) In the same programme the department failed to achieve its target on percentage of expenditure going towards non-personnel items due to lower than the target. However, 1st quarter spending was higher than target due to transfer payments to schools for 2 quarters and accruals paid during 1st quarter. Lower spending during 2nd quarter is due to transfer payments to schools already paid during 1st quarter.
- 4) The department continued to fail to achieve its target on number of teachers provided with ICT devices due to Grade 10 to 12 Technical Sciences teachers (42) were supplied with data projectors.
- 5) The department failed to achieve its target on number of schools implementing Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) tool because different teachers from the same school monitored lead to duplication of schools
- 6) The department failed to achieve its target in terms of the number of teachers trained in coding and robotic/digital technology.
- 7) The department could not achieve its target in terms of the number of teachers trained in inclusion because training will continue in the remaining quarters.
- 8) Failed to achieve its target on number of primary schools where written scheme of examination (WSE) policy is implemented due to the 2nd quarter target achievement is less with two primary schools due to follow up visits conducted.
- 9) The department did not achieve its target on percentage of learners with access to required maths textbooks in grade 6,9 and 12 due to failure of schools to issue textbooks on EMIS when textbooks are handed to learners.
- 10) The department deviated on percentage of learners with access to required maths textbooks in Grades 6, 9, & 12 due to failure of schools to issue textbooks on EMIS when textbooks are handed to learners.
- 11) Monitor textbooks in schools; Instruct principals to order textbooks from allocation and capture on EMIS.
- 12) Failure for the department to present/table infrastructure projects for the year under review was a concern for the committee.
- 13) Facilities catered to accommodate children are dilapidated and seems to be no plan for refurbishment.
- 14) History is not the priority or the focal point of the development in the school curriculum.

- 15) No crystal clear programme which aims at monitoring learners after matriculation.
- 16) One of the schools in Hobhouse in Mangaung Metro Municipality is alleged to have been forcing parents to buy stationery and textbooks.
- 17) Some of the learners with physical impairment do not have necessary learning materials.
- 18) The total performance for the Department of Education in the 2nd quarter of 2024/2025 financial year is 100%.

Challenges

- 1) Public works has got capacity challenges
- 2) Projects over R10 million belongs to public works.
- 3) Sport facilities are a huge challenge.
- 4) Learner high pregnancy rate.

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 in our schools
- 3) The department must begin to source funds for the refurbishment of dilapidated facilities aimed at accommodating children.
- 4) Learners with physical impairment must be assisted with modern technologies eg talking computers and reading ballpoints.
- 5) The department must liaise with Hobhouse school to find out the reasons for the school to force parents to buy learning materials.

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

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are undernourished has increased from 600 million to 800 million (FAO 1996).

There are a number of reasons for this increase. First, the world population has increased from 5 billion in 1987 to 6 billion in 1997, and is projected to reach 8 billion by 2025 (UNEP 1997). Second, the world population is becoming increasingly urbanized, and this has led to a greater demand for food. Third, the world population is becoming increasingly aged, and this has led to a greater demand for food. Fourth, the world population is becoming increasingly mobile, and this has led to a greater demand for food. Fifth, the world population is becoming increasingly educated, and this has led to a greater demand for food.

There are a number of ways in which the world population can be fed. First, the world population can be fed by increasing the production of food. Second, the world population can be fed by increasing the efficiency of food production. Third, the world population can be fed by increasing the distribution of food. Fourth, the world population can be fed by increasing the consumption of food.

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