

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL

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24th November 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO : PROCEEDINGS OFFICE

FROM : MEC FOR EDUCATION

**SUBJECT : PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY
NUMBER 5 IQP27/2009**

Question:-

Mr P E van Vuuren to ask the MEC responsible for Education:

1. Whether he has been informed of any significant risks or control weaknesses in his Department that have been identified by the Internal Audit Unit; if so, what are the relevant details in each case.
2. What will the implication be for his Department if these risks and control weaknesses are not addressed;
3. Whether any steps have been or are to be taken with a view to addressing these matters; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

RESPONSE:-

1. This is to confirm the significant risks or control weaknesses identified by the Internal Audit Directorate get reported to the Audit Committee at least on a quarterly basis.

The control weaknesses range from the Human Resource Management, Finance, Supply Chain Management related matters as well as the Value for Money aspect related to School Nutrition, Scholar Transport, HIV/AIDS, LTSM and Physical Infrastructure as well as School Functionality issues.

2. Possible implications for failure to address the risks and or control weaknesses are:-
 - potential loss of financial revenue to fruitless expenditure, over expenditure, pervasive fraud and corrupt tendencies, corporate governance, ineffective monitoring of internal controls implementation, loss of public confidence in providing quality education in the Province, wastage of state resources.
3. Yes, steps have been taken by the Department to addressing these matters such as:-

- Assigning the financial and procurement delegations to the Chief Directors.
- Cause the Chief Directors to be Programme Managers
- Embark on the organizational structure review process
- Ensure that Finance and Supply Chain Management are given priority in the filling of vacant posts.
- Ensure that the Audit Intervention Plans that are implemented by the Chief Directors are effective.
- Improve financial accountability and monitoring of expenditure at all levels.
- Review controls on Leave Management at all levels as well as Payroll Management.

It should be noted that the impact of implementing these corrective measures is still to be observed as the year progresses.

I thank you.

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MAHLUBANDILE QWASE, MPL
MEC FOR EDUCATION

