



DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

To: All Media Houses

Date: 9 may 2017

For immediate attention

The DA statement based on unverified information and factual errors

The DA statement released today (9 May 2017) under the headline: 8674 School learners are starving in Limpopo is based on unverified information and misleading the nation. The DA alleges that they received information from concerned parents, principals and teachers that learners have been attending school on empty stomachs for the last 3 months.

These are wrong allegations intended to discredit the Department and the Government in General. What they did not bother to bring to the nation is that even today there is a supplier of the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) for schools in Demamo Circuit. The fact is that a contracted service provider abandoned the project in January. The Department swiftly hired a new service provider on monthly based contract while following proper channels of the termination and appointment of a new contractor. Learners continued to receive their food in February and March through the temporary contract while the matters of the first contractor were handled legally.

The Department then proceeded with securing the long term contract to supply food for the learners. The new service provider for the area has been appointed yesterday on the 8th May 2017 and the contract will only lapse on the 31 December 2017. For the correct record, the Limpopo department of Education feeds more than 1 636 228 learners in a single financial year. There are officials both at circuit, district and provincial levels who monitor provision of food in schools.

The service providers have signed contracts that determine both the quality and processes of providing food to school and these are adhered to at all the times. However, it has to be noted by the DA and all stakeholders that steps taken for any wrong-doing should be within the ambit of the law. The Department continues to make sure learners benefit from government programmes at all the times.

Issued by Communication Services

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