



5 May 2025

Hon. Hlengiwe Mavimbela, MPL
Acting Chairperson
Portfolio Committee on Education
KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature

Dear Hon, Mavimbela, MPL

RE: Request for Urgent Special Sitting of the Portfolio Committee on Education

I write to you with urgent concern regarding the deteriorating financial and administrative state of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education, specifically regarding its failure to pay service providers of the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) for the months of March and April 2025 and the allegations of unpaid teachers primarily within the grade R cohort.

This non-payment places over two million learners at risk of not receiving a daily meal when schools reopen, in violation of both the Constitution and our moral obligations as public representatives.

It has now become clear that these unpaid amounts form part of broader accruals that were not funded within the 2024/25 budget, and which the Department intends to pay out of the 2025/26 budget—despite the latter not yet being passed. This is fiscally irresponsible and potentially unlawful.

Furthermore, the Department appears to have misled both the Portfolio Committee and the public regarding its financial position. Despite public reassurances, key service providers remain unpaid, and the situation has escalated to the point where sit-ins are being planned across departmental offices.

This matter was raised in the National Assembly under Section 18 of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), signalling the severity of the Department's non-compliance and its potential to warrant national intervention. The Democratic Alliance supports invoking this clause should urgent and credible remedial measures are not introduced without delay.

Considering the above, I hereby request that you convene a special sitting of the Portfolio Committee on Education as a matter of urgency to address the following:

Full disclosure of unpaid accruals and liabilities as at 31 March 2025;
A presentation from Provincial Treasury on the Department's current fiscal position, including the sustainability of its Cost of Employees and service delivery budgets;
Legal clarification on whether the Department is in contravention of the PFMA;
Accountability measures to be imposed on senior departmental leadership;
A credible, time-bound recovery plan to ensure continuity of school feeding and service delivery.
I trust that you will treat this request with the seriousness it demands and convene the Committee with immediate effect.

Yours faithfully,
Sakhile Mngadi, MPL
DA Spokesperson on Education
KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature

Yours Sincerely,

Hon. Sakhile Mngadi, MPL
DA KZN Spokesperson on Education