SAOU MEDIAVERKLARING
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EMBARGO: ONMIDDELLIK

Tekort aan bevoegde strategiese beplanning: 7000 leerders in Gauteng moet nog geplaas word

"Sekerlik kan daar van top staatsamptenare verwag word - en die Minister van Basiese Onderwys val duidelik in hierdie kategorie – om bevoeg te wees om langtermyn beplanning te bestuur."

Dit was die ergerlike reaksie van die HUB van die Suid-Afrikaanse Onderwysersunie (SAOU), Chris Klopper op nog 'n verslag aangaande die getal leerlinge in Gauteng wat nog nie geplaas is by skole vir die 2019 akdemiese jaar nie.

"Onderwys LUR Lesufi se reaksie was dat daar net 'n skamele 54 nuwe skole gebou kon word met die beperkte begroting vir die afgelope vier jaar. Hierdie getal is al klaar verbasend aangesien dit 'n vorige verslag weerspreek, waarin genoem word dat daar net 10 skole gebou was. Watter getal is dan nou akkuraat en sal hierdie getal van geboude skole weer toeneem in die lig van die opkomende verkiesings?

'n Verdere paar vrae moet met respek gestel word:

1. Is al 54 skole nuutgeboude skole of bestaande skole wat opgegradeer is?
2. Waar is hierdie skole geleë, dws is dit in die geografiese gebiede waar die vraag die hoogste is en wat is hulle kapasiteit?
3. Watter deel van die finale koste van die bouwerk aan die beweerde getal skole was gespandeer op die toerusting van onderrig/leerderfasiliteite wat net in hulle oorspronklike verpakking sal bly want die opvoeders is nie bemagtig om dit behoorlik aan te wend nie en daar is ook weer nie genoeg fondse om die nodige konnektiwiteit te verseker nie?

En dan 'n finale, soortgelyke, respekvolle vraag: Is die Gauteng Departement van Onderwys besig om te fokus op skole wat inderdaad plek het – maw het die Minister behoorlik huiswerk gedoen- of is die hele debakel slegs nog 'n geleentheid vir populiste politisering?

Ons wil baie graag glo in die integriteit van die bestuur van Onderwys van die provinsie, maar die aanhoudende geknoei van wat "Top bestuur" strategiese beplanning behoort te wees, gevolg deur die effektiewe gladde praatjies deur die LUR, maak dit baie moeilik om positief te bly aangaande die lewering van onderrig om nie eers te praat van die kwaliteit daarvan nie. Dit is regtig tyd dat verantwoordelikheid geneem word en 'n diens aan jou belanghebbendes gelewer word, Mnr die LUR van Onderwys," het Chris Klopper laastens opgemerk.

EINDE

(355 woorde)

NAVRAE: Chris Klopper (012 436 0900 /083 708 7733)

SAOU MEDIA STATEMENT
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EMBARGO: IMMEDIATE

Lack of competent strategic planning: 7000 learners in Gauteng still need to be placed

"Surely one can expect top government employees – and the MEC for Education no doubt falls within this group – to be capable of competent, long-term strategic planning. "

This was the exasperated response of the CEO of the South African Teachers' Union (SAOU), Chris Klopper to yet another report on the number of learners in Gauteng not being placed in schools for the 2019 academic year.

Education MEC Lesufi's reported response was that on his limited budget he was able to build only 54 new schools in the past four years. This number came as a surprise given that it contradicts a previously reported 10 schools having been built. Which report is accurate or will the number of built new schools rise as the elections draw closer?

"A further set of questions need to be respectfully posed:

1. Are all 54 schools new schools or are some refurbished/repurposed existing schools?
2. Where are the schools situated, that is, are they in the geographic areas where the needs are greatest and, what is their capacity?
3. How much of the final cost of the building of the claimed new schools was spent on equipping them with teaching/learning facilities which will remain in their original packaging because the educators have not been empowered to use them properly or because there is not money to ensure required connectivity?

And a final, equally respectful question: Is the GDE focusing on schools around the province that in fact genuinely have space – in other words, has the MEC done his homework properly – or is this whole on-going debacle simply, one more opportunity for populist politicking?

We desperately want to believe in the integrity of the education management of the province, but the on-going bungling of what should be routine 'top-drawer' strategic planning followed by less than effective smooth-talking and blame-shifting, to say nothing of political double-speak, in response after response from the MEC, makes it difficult to be optimistic about the delivery of any education let alone quality education. It really is time to step up to the plate and serve your constituents competently, Mr MEC," Klopper concluded.

END

(364 words)

Enquiries: Chris Klopper (012 436 0900 /083 708 7733)