FREE STATE LEGISLATURE

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO THE FREE STATE LEGISLATURE REGARDING THE FIRST QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR 2026/2027 FINANCIAL YEAR

26 November 2026

REPORT PROFILE

Title of Report:	Report of the Portfolio Committee on Education, Health and Social Services with regard to the first quarterly performance reports of the Departments: Health, Education and Social Development for the 2026/2027 financial year
Responsible Cluster:	Portfolio Committee on Education, Health and Social Services.

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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 first quarterly performance reports for the 2026/2027 financial year of the departments of Health, Education and Social Development. Portfolio Committee could not have presented this report without the valuable contribution of the Honourable MEC. M.V. Mahlatsi, Honourable MEC for Health. M. Hlalele for Social Development and Honourable MEC. M.J Maboya, MEC for 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.

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CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS:

SIGWEBELA, Z.

GAREKOE, N. J

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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 03 September 2026 to consider first quarterly performance reports for the 2026/2027 financial year as per the provisions of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Free State Legislature.

2. MEMBERS OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE

The Portfolio Committee comprises the following members:

Hon. M. Liphoko (Chairperson)

Hon. A. Cloete

Hon. D. Masoeu

Hon. D. Mkhabela

Hon. J. Mokoena

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 03 September 2026 to consider the first quarterly performance reports for the 2026/2027 financial year. The Committee was provided with first quarterly performance analysis reports for the 2026/2027 financial year by the Committee Researcher. The performance analysis reports were presented for the Departments of Health, Education and Social Development.

4. CONSIDERATION OF THE FIRST QUARTERLY REPORTS

4.1 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

4.1.2 Observations/Findings and Recommendations

Programme 1 – Administration
Programme 2 – Social Welfare Services
Programme 3 – Children and Families
Programme 4 – Restorative Services
Programme 5 – Community Development

During the appearance of the department before the Committee, the department was requested to present its first quarterly performance report for the period 2026/2027 financial year and focus on deviations. The Department of Social Development submitted both the electronic and the signed-off hard copies of their first quarterly non-financial report on the prescribed date. The Department presented progress against the 2026/27 first quarterly non-financial report across Administration, Social Welfare Services, Children and Families, Restorative Services and Community Development. After presentation the Committee made the following observations:

After the presentation on the fourth quarterly performance report, the committee observed the following:

- The Committee required stronger referral and admission processes for older people and people with disabilities who require residential care, while ensuring that community-based care does not disadvantage those needing institutional support.
- The suspension of a funded protective workshop, which contributed to a shortfall of 132 beneficiaries, required a clear explanation, reinstatement plan and interim support for affected persons with disabilities.

- Underperformance in parenting programmes and community-based services for children indicated the need for more responsive scheduling and outreach where work commitments and socio-economic barriers affect participation.
- The shortfall in feeding programe beneficiaries and household profiling requires active corrective measures, rather than passive reliance on future quarters.
- The Committee remained concerned about the operational state of treatment/secure-care facilities and sought firm timelines for reopening and restoration of services.
- Members also questioned delays in transfers to institutions and requested a clear picture of any funded organizations that had not received allocations.
- The Committee noted areas of progress but remained concerned that several service-delivery risks were recurring rather than isolated.
- Members questioned persistent appointment delays, the impact of absent data capturers, acting posts, unpaid pay progression, delayed NPO allocations and the closure of facilities
- Department had previously been regarded as a strong performer, but the current infrastructure and service-access problems suggested regression and required firm recovery dates.
- The Committee's concern was that alternative arrangements themselves should be safe and adequate and that service recipients should not carry the cost of infrastructure failures.
- The HoD and MEC accepted that the performance of the Department in the first quarter deteriorated from the previous period and committed to strengthening validation of performance information and submit an action plan.
- The MEC specifically accepted the Committee's concern about infrastructure underspending and committed that the Department would correct the regression.
- The Department achieved 31 of 41 targeted indicators, representing approximately 75.6% achievement.
- The Department on programe 1 and 4 achieved all their targeted indicators, while notable underperformance occurred in residential care, protective workshops, children and family programmes, food support, household profiling and community-based planning.
- Vacancies, delayed appointments and acting arrangements are affecting programme implementation across the social cluster and require time-bound workforce plans.
- Infrastructure maintenance, security and procurement weaknesses have direct consequences for access to health, education and social-development services.

- The Committee's resolution-tracking system is weakened when departments do not respond to adopted recommendations, and this undermines continuity between quarterly oversight cycles.

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Department must close the identified gaps in residential access for older persons and persons with disabilities and report on strengthened referrals, admissions and beneficiary monitoring by the end of the second quarter.
2. The Department must submit the cause, duration and remedial plan for the suspended protective workshop, the number of beneficiaries affected, and the interim support provided within 30 days
3. The Department must provide firm reopening/operational timelines for Winkie Direko and Matete Matches Secure Care Centre and report quarterly until both facilities are fully operational.
4. The Department must implement corrective action plan for feeding-programme, household-profiling and community-based planning shortfalls and report second quarter recovery against the first quarter beneficiary gaps.
5. Corrective measures in quarterly reports must be specific, measurable and time-bound because generic statements that says performance will improve in later quarters are not adequate for oversight
6. Department must respond to adopted Committee resolutions within the prescribed period.
7. The Committee required the impact on beneficiaries to be monitored alongside compliance enforcement.

4. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

4. 2. 1. Observations/ Findings and Recommendations

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

During the appearance of the department before the Committee, the department was requested to present its first quarterly performance report for the period 2026/2027 financial year and focus on deviations. The Department of Health submitted both the electronic and the signed-off hard copies of their

first quarterly non-financial report on the prescribed date. The Department presented progress against the 2026/27 first quarterly performance report across Administration, District Health Services, Emergency Medical Services, Provincial Hospitals, Central Hospitals, Health Sciences and Training, Health Care Support Services, Health Facilities Management. After presentation the Committee made the following observations:

- The Department of Health recorded 16 of 41 indicators in the first quarter and 25 were not achieved. making. This underperformance affected medicine availability, primary healthcare access, EMS response times, clinical training, linen, orthotics and prosthetics. However, some infrastructure and MEDPAS indicators were achieved.
- The Committee questioned the effect of the Medical Depot closure, national medicine shortages and whether alternative distribution measures were sufficient.
- The Committee was concerned about clinics closed by the Department of Employment and Labour, facilities operating reduced hours because of water shortages, and the impact on rural and hard-to-reach communities.
- EMS performance was affected by maintenance failures, old fleet, staffing shortages, equipment shortages and ambulances being delayed at hospitals because wards and beds were unavailable.
- The Department reported that more than 60 new ambulances had been delivered and recruitment of EMS personnel was under way, but the Committee required evidence that the maintenance problem with government garage/service providers was resolved.
- The Committee raised repeated concern about forensic pathology Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) failures and the closure/reopening of Motsumi,
- Zero performance on the linen indicator and vandalism of laundry facilities prompted questions about security. The Department indicated that security procurement, including electronic security, was under way.
- Members questioned prolonged acting appointments and vacancies in critical management positions. The Department confirmed that some officials acted for more than 12 months, although acting periods were reassessed after six months, and stated that previously frozen posts were now being advertised and filled.
- R180 million had been secured for clinic repairs, contractors were expected on site from October, and mobile clinics would be used as alternatives during maintenance.
- On administration the Department had 3 indicators: 2 achieved, 1 not achieved.
- On Emergency Medical Services the Department had 2 indicators and achieved zero.

- On Health Sciences and Training the Department 1 indicator and achieved zero
- On Health Care Support Services Severe the Department underperformed in laundries and orthotics/prosthetics.
- The 39% indicator achievement of the Department of Health delays in social-development beneficiary programs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) The Committee requested to have a holistic engagement with the Department of Health to consider operational plans in addition to routine APP reporting, so that priority problem areas could be jointly identified and monitored.
2) The Committee demanded that recurring maintenance failures must not continue.
3) The Executive Authority must submit within 30 days a consolidated recovery plan for medicine availability, including the Medical Depot refurbishment, direct delivery challenges, national stock shortages and weekly monitoring measures.
4) The Department must provide the Committee by the end of the second quarter with a facility-by-facility schedule for clinics and wards closed or partially operational because of infrastructure, water or labour-prohibition notices.
5) The Department must submit a quarterly EMS recovery dashboard covering new ambulance deployment, vehicles waiting for repairs, service-provider turnaround times, vacant EMS posts, response times and the effect of hospital bed availability.
6) The Department must finalize security arrangements for laundries, mortuaries, clinics and other vulnerable facilities and report back to the Committee by the end of the second quarter on guard deployment, electronic security procurement and incidents of vandalism.
7) The Department must provide a schedule of all funded senior and critical operational posts that are vacant or occupied in an acting capacity, the duration of each acting arrangement and the recruitment completion date within 30 days.

4. 3. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

4.3.1 Observation/findings and Recommendations

Programme 1: Administration
Programme 2: Public Ordinary Schools

Programme 3: Independent Schools
Programme 4: Public Special Schools
Programme :6: Infrastructure Development

During the appearance of the department before the Committee, the department was requested to present its first quarterly performance report for the period 2026/2027 financial year and focus on deviations. The Department of Education submitted both the electronic and the signed-off hard copies of their first quarterly performance report on the prescribed date. The Department presented progress against the 2026/27 first quarterly performance report across Administration, Public Ordinary Schools, Independent School Subsidies, Public Special Schools, Early Childhood Development, Infrastructure Development and Examinations and Education Related Services. The Committee was informed that several indicators were annual. However, first quarter showed progress in school administration systems, teacher development, infrastructure and learner transport.

After the presentation on first quarterly performance report, the committee made the following observations:

- The Committee welcomed the overachievement in the use of SA-SAMS and electronic connectivity but expected the newly registered special schools in the correctional facility to be fully integrated.
- Infrastructure delivery remains a critical oversight area. However, the Department reported progress on classrooms, specialist rooms, fencing and new schools.
- The inclusion of learner transport in the APP reporting was welcomed because the program involves significant expenditure and directly affects learner access.
- The Department's presentation was not confined to the six standardized indicators.
- The Department identified Physical Sciences uptake as a concern because it constrained the science stream, while reporting encouraging progress in technical subjects, engineering, agriculture, arts and mathematics.
- The Committee observed that 146 schools were on the learner-transport program and as a result this indicator had been brought into APP due to audit concerns regarding inadequate spending which is not reflected in the APP.
- The Department is faced with structural budget pressure and the Department's ability to maintain quality and inclusive education.
- The Committee observed that 921 public schools are using SA-SAMS and 922 schools are electronically contactable.

- On Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and teacher development it was said that 5 district teacher development centers implementing programs and 33 schools reached through GBVF support.
- Several annual indicators were not achieved in the first quarter.
- Projects for classrooms, specialist rooms, new schools, fencing and condition assessments are in progress.
- Examinations program performance will be largely measured after 2026 examination.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends that:

1) The Committee emphasised that the Department must provide credible quarterly achievements where applicable.
2) The Department must provide the Committee with the progress on all infrastructure projects including security fencing and identify any project at risk of missing its annual target and respond in 30 days.
3) The Department must ensure that teachers of the newly registered special school in the correctional facility are trained on SA-SAMS and report the progress made to the Committee.
4) The Committee must invite both the Department of education and the provincial treasury to come and share their financial trajectory.
5) The Department must provide a completion dates on classrooms, fencing, specialist rooms and new schools rather than relying solely on yearly targets and respond in 30 days.
6) The need for milestone-based infrastructure oversight by the Department of Education require sustained follow-up on quarterly basis.

5. GENERAL RECCOMMENDATION

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