FREE STATE LEGISLATURE

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO THE FREE STATE LEGISLATURE REGARDING THE FOURTH QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR 2025/2026 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 fourth quarterly performance reports of the Departments: Health, Education and Social Development for the 2025/2026 financial year
Responsible Cluster:	Portfolio Committee on Education, Health and Social Services.

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Report for tabling in the Legislature on:

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 fourth quarterly performance reports for the 2025/2026 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.

LIPHOKO, M
CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS:

SIGWEBELA, Z.

GAREKOE, N. J

MEEKO, T

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CLOETE, A. B

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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 04 August 2026 to consider fourth quarterly perfomance reports for the 2025/2026 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. J. Mokoena

Hon. D. Masoeu

Hon. D. Mkhabela

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 04 August 2026 to consider the fourth quarterly performance reports for the 2025/2026 financial year. The Committee was provided with fourth quarterly performance analysis reports for the 2025/2026 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 FOURTH QUARTERLY REPORTS

4. 1. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

4. 2. 1. Observations/ Findings

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 fourth quarterly performance report for the period 2025/2026 financial year and focus on deviations. After presentation of the fourth quarterly performance report, the committee made the following observations:
The Committee observed that the Department of Health failed to achieve targets on the following output indicators.

- **Output Indicator:** Percentage availability of medication; the target was not achieved because of a prohibition letter/notice by the Department of Labour prohibiting access to Depot Pharmaceutical Warehouse following the collapse of the Depot ceiling. Limitations/challenges with the direct deliveries approach.

- **Output Indicator**: PHC utilisation under 5 years rate; the target was not achieved due to poor access to remote areas and new mushrooming areas and insufficient mobile clinics and staff
- **Output Indicator**: Percentage of PHC facilities implementing quality Improvement programme; this was not achieved because not all facilities completed their QIPs on the system.
- **Output Indicator**: Patient experience of care satisfaction rate (PHC), not achieved due to Shortage of staff and inefficient implementation of the appointment system, Lack of community engagement, and most of the facilities scored below the target in most priority areas.
- **Output Indicator**: Ideal clinic status obtained rate; this target was not achieved because NNV, vital elements, and infrastructure elements were not achieved. 5 of our CHCs are not meeting the standards and package of a CHC in Fezile Dabi.
- **Output Indicator**: Percentage of hospitals implementing quality improvement programme; this was not achieved due to non-capturing of elements plans that were implemented
- **Output Indicator**: Patient Experience of care satisfaction rate not achieved because the PHC facilities did not achieve the target for the PEC survey priorities. The level of care only achieved 1 priority area (availability of medicine).
- **Output Indicator**: ART adults remain in care rate [12 months was not achieved due to a high number of lost-to-follow-up clients. Long waiting time at Health facilities. Delay in capturing data due to an inadequate number of data capturers at health facilities. Closure of 12 Primary Health Care facilities across the Provin
- **Output Indicator**: ART children remain in care rate 12 months due to non-adherence to appointments as children depend on parents/guardians or caregivers to bring them for follow-up visits. Non-disclosure of HIV Status to the child resulting in non-adherence to treatment
- **Output Indicator**: ART child viral load suppressed rate – below 50 [12 months] not achieved due to non-adherence to appointments and treatment, as children are dependent on caregivers to do follow-up.
- **Output Indicators**: All DS-TB client treatment success rate not achieved due to challenges with movement of patients without reporting to the facilities. Patients stop treatment when they are feeling better.
- **Output Indicator:** Immunisation under 1-year coverage not achieved due to low PHC utilization under 5 years harms the services provided to children
- **Output Indicator:** Child under 5 years diarrhoea case fatality rate and Child under 5 years pneumonia case fatality rate not achieved due to Thabo Mofutsanyana and Lejweleputswa being the districts with high mortality. Social determinants of health increase the risk of diarrhoea in

children. Low immunization coverage impacts on an increase in vaccine-preventable deaths.

- **Output Indicator:** Cervical cancer screening coverage not achieved due to the lowest performing district being Lejweleputswa, at 36%. The challenge of the LBC solution is still persistent
- **Output Indicator:** Percentage of autopsies performed within 5 working days was not achieved due to a high backlog and the closure of mortuaries in Bloemfontein, Botshabelo and Bethlehem by the Department of Labour.
- That the mortuaries reopened in the following towns: Bethlehem mortuary opened in the 2nd quarter, Bloemfontein partially opened in the 2nd quarter, and Botshabelo was opened in the 3rd quarter.

- The Committee felt that, according to the presentation, the department is not doing well in programme 2 presentation because it is full of deviations.
- The Department of Health submitted both the electronic and the signed-off hard copies of their fourth quarterly non-financial report on the prescribed date.
- In some health facilities, lifts are dysfunctional, and this poses a challenge in accommodating differently abled people.
- The department takes a long time to recruit staff, although these posts are already budgeted for.
- Hospital boards are still a challenge; sometimes they do not quorate for their meetings, as well as dysfunctional clinic wards.
- Child mortality rate and EMS are still a huge challenge in the province.
- There is a slight improvement in health facilities in terms of refurbishment to guard against possible closure by the labour department.
- Revenue collection rate at the time of the meeting was at 60%; the department was encouraged to strive for a 100% collection rate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) The Department must ensure that human resources unit accelerate the process that it has already begun of identifying the number of EMS vacant and funded posts available for EMS personnel recruitment and report progress on quarterly basis.
2) The representative of the Occupational Health and Safety division, which operates on an ad hoc basis, must be fully operational and report progress quarterly.
3) Must ensure that partially opened mortuaries in Bloemfontein in the 2nd quarter, and Botshabelo in the 3rd quarter are fully operational and report progress made quarterly.
4) Must ensure that it improves its performance in program 2 as it is reported to be not doing well in this program.

5) Must attend to Dysfunctional lifts in some of the health facilities to accommodate differently abled people and report progress on quarterly basis.
6) Must urgently fill all funded posts and refrain from taking long in filling of funded posts.
7) Hospitals together with the provincial Department must work together to ensure full functionality of the hospital boards and report progress quarterly.
8) Must strive towards a 100% revenue collection rate as opposed to the 2025/26 fourth quarterly report of 60% collection rate.

4.2 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

During the appearance of the department before the Committee, the department was requested to present its fourth quarterly performance report for the period 2025/2026 financial year and focus on deviations. After the presentation on the fourth quarterly non-financial report, the committee made the following observations:
Programme 1 – Administration
Programme 2 – Social Welfare Services
Programme 3 – Children and Families
Programme 4 – Restorative Services
Programme 5 – Community Development

4. 3. 1. Observations/Findings

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

Output indicator: Number of children in conflict with the law who accessed Secure Care Centres was not achieved because the indicator is dependent on the referrals from the Courts in the Districts for children to be detained. Winkie Direko institution is still under renovation.

- This is the only target that was not achieved by the department in the fourth quarter under sub programme: crime prevention and support
- The Department of Social Development submitted both the electronic and the signed-off hard copies of its fourth quarterly non-financial report on the prescribed date.
- The treatment facilities in the province are a serious concern to the Committee.
- The department continues to underspend on goods and services due to service providers who fail to deliver according to the specified period.
- Some of the underspending is as a result of non-compliance by some of the Non-Profit Organisations.

- The department received a budget of R10 million for 42 Non-Profit Organisation facilities.
- Day-to-day infrastructure maintenance is done internally. However, huge infrastructure challenges are handled by public works.

RECOMMENDATION

1) The Department must compel service providers to deliver goods and services in accordance with the prescribed timeframe/specified period to avoid unnecessary underspending and report in progress quarterly for goods and services delivery compliance/timeframe.
2) Must develop an actionable improvement plan to improve the conditions of treatment facilities and report progress on quarterly basis.
3) Must continue to provide training program for NPO's that will help them to realise and understand the importance of compliance to avoid loss of quarterly allocation by the department and report progress on quarterly basis.

3. 3. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

4. During the appearance of the department before the Committee, the department was requested to present its fourth quarterly performance report for the period 2025/2026 financial year and focus on deviations. After the presentation on fourth quarterly performance report, the committee made the following observations:

   Programme 1: Administration
   Programme 2: Public Ordinary Schools
   Programme 3: Independent Schools
   Programme 4: Public Special Schools
   Programme :6: Infrastructure Development

4. 1. 2 Observation and Challenges

- The Department of Education submitted both the electronic and the signed-off hard copies of their fourth quarterly performance report on the prescribed date.
- **Output Indicator 224:** Percentage of learners with access to required Maths textbooks in Grades 6, 9, & 12 not achieved because schools do not have sufficient human resources to capture textbooks issued to learners on EMIS. The Department is exploring a centralised model for capturing textbooks on EMIS.

- **Output Indicator 604:** Number of schools provided with new or additional boarding facilities not achieved because the Free State Department of Education took over the project from the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure at the end of August 2025; however, they still had to approve several verifications of study (Vos) and EOT's from their side. Despite interventions, DPW&I still has not approved the final emergency online teaching (EOT), which resulted in payment for this time not being able to be processed.
- **Output Indicator 611:** Number of new schools completed and ready for occupation (includes replacement schools not achieved due to the outstanding school (Father Ballink) is on the verge of reaching practical completion. Due to financial challenges, the contractor could not complete the work within the target period. It will reach practical completion within the first quarter of 2026/2027
- **Output Indicator 702:** Percentage of Grade 12 learners passing at the Bachelor pass level not achieved due to quality passes decreasing in 2025, focusing more on getting learners to pass than performing well.
- **Output Indicator 703:** Percentage of Grade 12 learners achieving 60% and above in Mathematics not achieved due to the overall decline in performance in Mathematics, resulting in fewer learners passing at 60%.
- **Output Indicator 704:** Percentage of Grade 12 learners achieving 60% and above in Physical Science was not achieved due to the overall decline in performance in Physical Science, resulting in fewer learners passing at 60%.
- The committee realised that some of the posts have been vacant for far too long, and this hampers the culture of learning and teaching.
- The Department is currently faced with an overdraft to such an extent that the Department is unable to recruit more staff at provincial, district and school level due to the high-salary bill.
- The Department has also reduced travel due to financial difficulties of the Department.
- There is a delay between the Department of Education and Public Works in meeting and sorting out infrastructural challenges in our schools.
- Shortage of textbooks is as a result of a failure to upload on EMIS due to inability to recruit clerks because of these budgetary constraints.
- The delays in completion of the Leboneng special school project led the Department to take over the Leboneng special school construction project.
- The good performance of output indicators 702 and 704 will improve the decline of bachelor pass rate.
- Some of the schools are not buying textbooks; they make copies in order to make malicious profit from them. The Department decided to take it upon itself to buy textbooks for the schools.

- Teachers Lacking Specialized Training in Reading Instruction
- Most Foundation Phase classes are overcrowded, with between 45 to 50 learners per class. This makes it impossible for teachers to give individual attention.
- Poor Teaching Support and Training.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends that:

1) The Department must ensure that all critical posts are filled and report progress made on quarterly basis.
2) Must come up with a measurable plan to improve the bachelor pass rate
3) Must invest more resources in Early Childhood Development in preparation for Grade 12 learners.
4) Must develop effective school policies and procedures to fight against any form of sexual abuse.
5) The Department of Education and Public Works must strengthen their memorandum of understanding to urgently address infrastructure challenges in public schools and report on progress made in three months.
6) The Department must engage national treasury and the provincial treasury to request additional funding for recruitment of clerks to speed up uploading textbooks process on EMIS on time and report progress on quarterly basis.
7) The process of buying textbooks must not be stalled as it will impact negatively on the performance of the learners particularly Grade 12 learners
8) Must prioritise special training in reading instructions as teachers lack special training in this regard, and report progress on quarterly basis.
9) Must provide quality teaching and learning support materials, proper training and report progress on quarterly basis.

GENERAL RECCOMMENDATION

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