

# Empowering School Governing Bodies



Leading from the front, Mrs Reginah Mhaule

The MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule is intensifying a drive to empower school governing bodies so that in turn they can play a meaningful role in enhancing school governance.

This endeavour is done collaboratively with stakeholders of the Provincial Consultative Forum whose main task is to spearhead all processes aimed at improving the functionality of school governing bodies.

In her 2013/14 Policy and Budget Speech, the MEC for Education said: “We acknowledge that in order to accelerate the delivery of quality education the need to intensify the training of school leadership and governing bodies cannot be overemphasised.

The Department is doing this as it firmly believes that a school is as good as its leadership. Our view is that through this programme school managers will understand their roles and responsibilities, as such there will be no need for external support on issues of school leadership in the future.”

The Department has set aside R4 million to empower 8 000 members of school governing bodies in all governance areas as required of them by the South African Schools Act.

Further more the Department will convene an Indaba for school governing bodies on 20 June 2013 to deliberate on issues that may help to improve school governance and for members to share best practices.

### Mandate of School Governing Bodies

A School Governing Body (SGB) is tasked to ensure that the school runs smoothly and efficiently. In terms of the South African Schools Act, it is mandated to set policies and rules that govern the school, and to monitor the implementation of the rules. The SGB gets its mandate from the different members (learners, parents, teaching and non- teaching staff) of the school community.

The SGB acts on behalf of the school because the school is a juristic person. This means that the school can enter into a legal contract and the school governing body acts on its behalf. The school governing body can therefore sue or be sued. The SGB exists independently of its members, which means that even if all members resign, the school governing body may be held responsible for all the legal contracts entered into on behalf of the school.

### Functions of the SGB

- Improve the quality of education
- Decide on an admission policy for the school
- Ensure good school governance
- Decide on the language policy of the school
- Ensure that the school serves the interests of the community and meet expectations of parents.
- Adopt a code of conduct for learners which sets out disciplinary procedures.
- Combat racism, sexism and all other forms of unfair discrimination and intolerance

- SGB's are accountable to the school community and should be dedicated to and have commitment to create the conditions to achieve quality learning and teaching in all our schools.
- Maintain and improve the school's property, buildings and grounds.
- Deciding on the extramural curriculum and the choice of subject options according to provincial curriculum policy.
- Paying for services to the school.

### School Governing Bodies are Compelled to Make Policies that:


- Allow all South African children to enter the schooling system.
- Encourage children to speak a range of our country's languages.
- Respect children's rights and promote non violent ways of solving problems.

### The SGB can also:

- Adopt a constitution setting out how the SGB will operate.
- Make recommendations regarding the appointment of educators at the school.
- Administer the school's property, buildings and grounds
- Decide the times of the school day.
- Adopt a school mission statement setting out the values and beliefs of the school.

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## School Governing Bodies INDABA

The MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule will convene an Indaba for Members of School Govering Bodies scheduled as follows:


Date	: 20 June 2013 (Thursday)
Venue	: Pienaarsdam Middelburg, Steve Tshwete Municipality
Time	: 09H00

The objectives of the Indaba are:

- *To create a platform for all stakeholders and government departments to share lessons and experience.*
- *To strengthen partnerships with all stakeholders particularly between the departments, teacher unions, parents and schools.*
- *To mobilize all stakeholders and create awareness to the roles and responsibilities of all citizens in terms of the importance of quality education.*
- *To share and promote current good practices on matters of cooperative governance*



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