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GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 248 OF 2007

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

APPOINTMENT OF MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON LEARNER RETENTION IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOLING SYSTEM

I, Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor, MP, Minister of Education, hereby appoint a Ministerial Committee on Learner Retention in the South African Schooling System.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. The Committee will, in cooperation with Mr D Hindle, the Director-General of Education, conduct an investigation in order to:
 - a. Review the relevant existing data, information and research on the retention of learners in South African schools.
 - b. Assess the validity of the methodologies used by researchers and commentators in reporting on retention in South African schools.
 - c. Specifically investigate the extent of retention and dropout, as well as the reasons for dropout among learners in Grades 9 to 12 in the period 2003 to 2005, by undertaking an empirical study in a representative sample of schools.
 - d. Investigate empirically any anomalies in learner retention among Grade-1-learners, in a purpose sample of schools.
 - e. Report on the findings of the review, assessment and investigation as outlined above.
2. The Committee must, upon its appointment, make proposals to the Minister regarding the refinement of the method suggested in these terms of reference.
3. The following persons will be appointed to conduct this investigation on behalf of the Minister of Education:
 - Prof. Servaas van der Berg
 - Prof. Sizwe Mabizela
 - Prof. Charles Simkins
 - Prof. Sarah Howie
 - Dr Jairo Arrow
 - Ms Gugu Nyanda

TIME FRAME

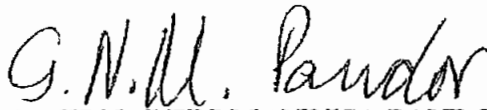
4. The Committee will report to the Minister within five months of its appointment.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

5. Committee members will be paid a daily honorarium at Government's standard rates for Ministerial Committees.
6. The Committee will be expected to submit a business plan to the Minister, which will include the plan of work of the Committee and the estimated cost of this work.
7. The Department will make all travel and accommodation arrangements of Committee members, subject to Government rates.
8. The Department will reimburse all other administrative expenditure that Committee members incur in carrying out the work stipulated in the business plan. To this end, the chairperson of the Committee must approve and sign invoices and forward them to the Department. Claims of the Committee must be made in accordance with the rules of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (the PFMA).

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT

9. The appointment of the Committee is subject to the provisions of regulation 20, Part 8, of the Treasury Regulations for Departments, Trading Entities, Constitutional Institutions and Public Entities, issued in terms of the PFMA.



**GRACE NALEDI MANDISA PANDOR, MP
MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

DATE: 27-02-2007
