

## Update: Meeting of KZN Department of Education Monitoring Committee for COVID-19

A virtual meeting of the Committee was convened on 12 March 2021 to discuss the monitoring tool that was circulated by the Department of Basic Education about the Presidential Employment Stimulus Programme. Members were informed in a previous *Informus* that the KZN Department of Education has established a Monitoring, Evaluation and Risk Assessment Committee for COVID-19.

### Creation of job opportunities

Members should be aware of the widely publicised Presidential Employment Stimulus Programme. As part of the programme, the basic education sector aimed to create 200 000 employment opportunities for Education Assistants and 100 000 for General School Assistants. This was to be established through the Basic Education Employment Initiative (BEEI). The BEEI seeks to address COVID-19 academic disruptions as well as some of the lingering systemic challenges.

### Education Assistants support in classroom

Education Assistants will support teachers in the classroom and provide extra support for learners. General School Assistants will help schools with basic infrastructure maintenance. Recruitment was to take place at community level with schools required to prioritise candidates living near the school.

### Monitoring tools questionnaire

In terms of this monitoring tool, monitoring teams established in terms of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Risk Assessment Committee were required to visit schools that employed Education Assistants and General School Assistants to complete the questionnaire. The questionnaire extensively covers all aspects related to the employment of Education Assistants and General School Assistants, including but not limited to the numbers appointed, numbers trained, amounts received by schools and many other aspects too numerous to mention. The questionnaire is evidently intended to ensure the success of the programme and root out fraud and corruption. This initiative is therefore applauded by the PSA.

Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER