Education Indaba Declaration

One accord in education, for a brighter tomorrow.

20 - 21 June 2017
Preamble

The 2017 ELRC Education Indaba represents an important historical moment: it has been a national gathering of all stakeholders, who came together as a result of a clarion call by Parties to the ELRC, being the Teacher Unions and the Department of Basic Education. The Indaba has been a rare and important opportunity to think afresh and innovatively about the many challenges relating to Education Provisioning and related matters, in particular Post Provisioning, which has become one of the vexing issues in various Provincial Education Departments.

The Indaba brought together senior leaders of both the Department of Basic Education (national and provincial), and the Teacher Unions, this being the reflection of the magnitude of issues that require serious dialogue.

The Indaba further offered a unique opportunity to collectively deliberate on the challenges in public education and cultivate a tradition of stakeholder dialogue to ensure that the vision for education as outlined in the National Development Plan, is realised.

This Declaration therefore represents the consensus achieved among participants at the Indaba and will form the basis for future dialogue with the quest of informing the policy direction of our education system in line with both the Government’s and the Unions’ perspectives on education.

It further represents the unified intention of all stakeholders to provide a framework that will serve as a guide to address some of the critical challenges in public education.

The Indaba Objectives

• To ensure ongoing dialogue amongst stakeholders on pertinent education matters in pursuit of labour peace and quality education in public schools.

• To actualise the strategic imperatives of government, teacher unions and other education stakeholders in relation to public education.
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1. **NOTING THAT**
   - The legacy of poor quality education in historically disadvantaged parts of the schooling system still persists and this seriously hampers the education system’s ability to address the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

2. **ACKNOWLEDGING THAT**
   - The current policy on post provisioning, financial and fiscal policies are not adequate to address the intricacies of the education system.
   - The absence of policy regulating the institutionalisation of Grade R.
   - The impediments in the delivery of the curriculum.

3. **PARTICIPANTS RESOLVE THAT**

   3.1 The following work streams are established under the stewardship of the ELRC to execute the tasks emanating from the 2017 Education Indaba.

      3.1.1 PPN work stream
      3.1.2 ECD/ Grade R (institutionalisation) work stream
      3.1.3 Curriculum work stream to collaborate with the Task team on the review of CAPS Chapter 4

   3.2 A detailed Work Plan is formulated. The work streams will continue with the work as recommended by the commissions and progress will be reported on at the reconvened Indaba in 2018.

   3.3 Participants to the Indaba further resolved to convene the Education Indaba annually.