Auditing to build public confidence

AUDITOR-GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA

Minutes of meeting

2nd Steering Committee meeting - Kha Ri Gude

6 February 2014 – 14:00

Department of Basic Education

Points of discussion	Person responsible
1. Welcome and attendance The Chairperson thanked everyone for making time available to meet. *Attendance:* Chrisna Janse van Rensburg — AGSA Senior Manager Chrisna Botha — AGSA Manager Johnny Wolfswinkel — AGSA Audit Supervisor Ms Molalekoa — DBE – CFO Ms Mosimeqe — DBE – Director Strategic Planning Ms Moodley — DBE – Director Internal Audit Ms Ramarumo — DBE – CEO Kha Ri Gude *Apologies:* Mr Schoeman — DBE - Godfrey Diale — AGSA Regularity SM	**Chairperson**
2. Adoption of Agenda In the absence of Mr Schoeman, the CFO indicated that he requested her to act as chairperson. The chairperson discussed the agenda and asked if there should be any additions to the agenda. No additional items were added to the agenda.	**Chairperson**
3. Purpose of meeting Chrisna explained that the purpose of the meeting is to obtain factual correctness of findings and to discuss the way forward. She thanked the department for their assistance and for providing requested information in time to ensure that the audit would be completed as quickly as possible. Chrisna asked the department how they would like to discuss the findings, by discussing each paragraph or the department indicating the paragraph where they disagreed and only discussing those paragraphs. The CFO suggested that Dr Ramarumo take the lead on this.	**Chrisna Janse van Rensburg**

Minutes of meeting

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4. Factual correctness of findings

All

Chapter 1: Policies, procedures and guidelines

Par 1.1 Chrisna asked if the department disagrees with the finding. Dr Ramarumo did not agree with the finding as she stated that the target for the Kha Ri Gude (KRG) programme was 2015 and not 2012. She stated that the UNESCO target is 2015 and that the KRG target was aligned accordingly. She referred the audit team to the UN Millenium goals, which indicated a due date of 2015.

Par 1.2 Dr Ramarumo also did not agree with the statement that the success of the programme has been overstated as she indicated that the audit team performed audit procedures on the wrong database. Chrisna indicated that the databases were provided to the audit team in October 2013, and the fact that these were the incorrect databases were never brought to the attention of the audit team. The CFO requested that the new and correct database be provided to the audit team. Chrisna stated that the audit is on a tight deadline and additional costs will be incurred if audit procedures have to be reperformed on the new databases.

Par 1.2 On the finding that youngsters should have achieved literacy through the normal schooling that were enrolled for KRG, the department indicated that there is a backlog in the country and that parents are not taking their children to school. This is especially a problem in the deep rural areas. The CEO indicated that it was KRG's mandate to educate adult illiterates from the age 15 +. Chrisna stated that it is agreed that KRG is doing very good work, but the schooling system is failing children if they need to enrol with KRG.

Par 1.2 Dr Ramarumo asked what the source of information was for the fact that some volunteer educators only provide 2 hours of class. Chrisna Botha indicated that the information was obtained from Elijah Sekgobela in the KRG Unit.

Par 1.3 The CEO indicated that the dropout rate for KRG learners was 9% and not 14%. Chrisna Janse van Rensburg referred the committee to table 6 on page 31 of the report. The 14% was calculated on the figures provided by the department, and the calculation is listed in the table. Dr Ramarumo also disagreed with the pass rate figure and said that it should be much higher. Chrisna Janse van Rensburg referred the committee to table 14 on page 40. The information was provided by the department.

Par 2.1 Dr Ramarumo disagreed with the finding which stated that the department did not have a formal policy. She indicated that she had discussions with the previous CEO of the Kha Ri Gude programme (Prof MkCay) after the report was issued for today's meeting and that there were policy guidelines for the programme. She indicated that it is in the back of the volunteer educator training manual and requested the audit team to add it to the report. Chrisna asked if they agree that even though there are policy guidelines, there is still no KRG policy. The department agreed that there is no formal KRG policy but again

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stated that there are policy guidelines. Ms Moodley enquired about the process followed during the audit, as several disagreements are now raised by the CEO. Chrisna Botha replied that the audit team and the Kha Ri Gude Unit has had numerous interactions and engagements on the audit, and findings have been discussed and agreed on since last year. Minutes of formal meetings were compiled and are available on request. Chrisna Janse van Rensburg also stated that the report was discussed with Dr Ramarumo on 23 January 2014, and the concerns raised during this meeting were not raised then. Par 2.2 Dr Ramarumo disagreed with the finding, stating that the target date for the campaign was in line with the UN Millenium goals and was not due to funding. Par 3.2 The department agreed on the finding and highlighted again that the delay was due to a change in procurement model in 2011-12. Par 3.3 The department agreed on the finding. Par 3.4 Dr Ramarumo did not agree and indicated that there was a programme in KwaZulu Natal which produced 200 000 learners. These learners need to be taken into account when KRG learners are counted. Chrisna commented that this was not in any of the documentation that was audited, and requested the CEO to provide more information and evidence on this. Par 5.1 – 5.5 On the finding on communication with ABET, the department indicated that they did have discussions with ABET and even sent through their completed databases to ABET and the various provinces. They indicated that Mpumalanga was the only province that attempted to identify learners that completed the KRG programme. **Chapter 2: Recruitment of potential learners, volunteer educators and other support personnel** Par 1.1 – 1.5 On the finding that supervisors and coordinators have to travel vast distances to meet with supervisors and volunteer educators respectively, the department agreed with the finding. A discussion occurred what the best possible solution would be for certain areas in the country where the current structure of KRG is not working or is encountered problems. It was suggested that KRG should look into changing their current model for those provinces to accommodate this problem. Par 2.1 – 2.3 This was already discussed in the first chapter. Par 3.1 – 3.2 The finding on volunteer educators not having a matric certificate was agreed on, but the department stated that a lot of the personnel in the KRG system came from a programme called SANLI where people were trained to become ABET educators, even though they did not have matric, and they were accepted for KRG.	

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Par 4.1 – 4.2 Dr Ramarumo disagreed with the finding where two sites in KwaZulu Natal could not be physically verified by the audit team. She stated that she contacted the coordinators and they confirmed that one of the volunteer educators resigned in October and therefore there were no classes. The other volunteer educator never started with class. The payment system also reflected that these two volunteer educators did not receive any payment during the period. Chrisna Botha indicated that this was contradicting what was found by the audit team. Site visits were only conducted in November, and neither the coordinator, or the supervisor, or the department or project management company that assisted in arrangements for the visits, indicated that no classes were being conducted for the sites. This was also not the case when a follow up visit was done by the project management company in January 2014. It was indicated at the follow up that the one volunteer educator submitted LAPs on 22 December 2013 and was on holiday. They could also locate a site where the audit team was unable to do so. Dr Ramarumo insisted that the Volunteer Educators did not receive any payment. Dr Ramarumo also requested that the pictures in the report on these visits be removed, as it was not portraying the true image of Kha Ri Gude. Chrisna Botha explained that it presented the two sites in KwaZulu Natal which could not be found. The audit team visited up to three different venues/places, but could not locate the site. The pictures were not representative of all the sites. The CFO encouraged the discussions to be kept brief and short as time was running out. It was agreed in the committee that the findings on the database will not be discussed as it was already established that it might have stemmed from incorrect databases. **Chapter 3: Learner and Teacher Support Material** Par 1.1 – 1.2 The CEO disagreed with the finding regarding the number of English books that are stated in the report. According to her, these were books that were printed in 2007. Chrisna Botha indicated that she received confirmation from the logistic company that the books they received in 2012 were newly printed English books. Dr Ramarumo indicated that she would follow up with Elijah Sekgobela on this matter. The CFO requested that the meeting be closed as time was up. Dr Ramarumo indicated that she would send her comments on the rest of the report to Chrisna Botha.	

Minutes of meeting

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5. Way forward Chrisna explained that the audit has to be completed. It was very unfortunate that the audit had come this far and the department only indicating now that there might be a database issue. She insisted that the correct databases be provided to the audit team by 10:00 on Friday, 7 February 2013 so that the audit procedures can be performed on it as quickly as possible. She indicated that the extra work will be charged to the cost of the department. She also indicated that the report will note the different databases that were submitted and if the information is not provided by close of Friday, the report will be issued with a lot of limitations. She also stated that another 2nd steering committee meeting will have to take place once the audit is completed to reach consensus on the findings. The committee agreed to make themselves available for another 2nd steering committee meeting.	**Chrisna Janse van Rensburg**
6. Closure The meeting was adjourned at 16:15.	**Chairperson**

Signatures:

Chairperson ____________________ Date ____________

Secretary ____________________ Date ____________