

Questions to Treasury

1. PALCs are being moved to DHET. Have there been any submissions from DHET in respect of the function shift from a provincial to a national competence?
2. Will there be any shift of budget from Province to DHET in this regard? If so, will the amounts involved be equivalent to what has been involved in running the PALCs under provincial auspices?
3. A report of the Auditor General makes clear that the functioning of PALCs has been far from optimum. Has DHET requested financial resources which will allow it to attend to the deficiencies identified?
4. One of the advantages of the PALCs identified in the White Paper on Post Schooling is that they are distributed and hence close to where their target audiences live. The Provincial AET offices have however found it difficult to oversee the many adult learning centres under their control. How do you see DHET being able to oversee these distributed centre? Will provincial offices be created under DHET? Are there precedents for such arrangements in other sectors?
5. How do you see the amalgamation of PALCs into a single entity; does such an entity become a prototype Community College?
6. Is the development of Community Colleges seen as a Cabinet priority?
 - a. Who do see as the main target groups of Community Colleges and what would you see them offering?
 - b. If not, what other initiatives is Treasury supporting to address the issues of the NEETs and why is Treasury allocating so much to TVET Colleges when so many are non-functional?
 - c. If yes, what resources have Treasury allocated to Community Colleges? Have there been any submissions from DHET to establish new Community Colleges (rather than the merger of PALCs into Community Colleges)?
 - d. How has Treasury responded to such submissions?
 - e. Are there ways in which DHET could improve their submissions to receive more funds?
7. We understand that Treasury has not been sympathetic to the creation of SAIVCET.
 - a. Is this correct, and if so, why?
 - b. Our view is that such an institution is essential to the functioning of the Community Colleges allowing them to have well designed resources to offer effectively a range of national needs such as NASCA, NSC rewrites, ABET levels 1 – 4, Early childhood care, Home Care, etc, while giving them time to respond to more local needs. (Note some of what the AG found, was a dearth of learning materials.) Would Treasury also have a tepid response to a SAICET?

Questions to MHET/Senior DHET

1. The White Paper presents a compelling case for Community Colleges and emphasises the importance of their being distributed and thus close to the homes of the potential audience. What do you see as the key purpose(s) of the Draft Policy on Community Colleges? How should it relate to the White Paper on Post Schooling? It does not develop the vision and concept of Community Colleges, is this deliberate?
2. How important do you see Community Colleges in the Post School landscape? How will/should Community Colleges be different from TVET Colleges?
3. Currently the legislation deals generically with all Colleges, with the previous FET Act being amended to cover Community Colleges.
 - a. Given the differences between TVET Colleges and Community Colleges you describe here and in the White Paper, is it appropriate that the legislative framework should be the same for both types of College?
 - b. In particular, are TVET Colleges seen as a central Administration with a *small number of large affiliated campuses*, while Community Colleges may consist of a *large number of very small* Community Learning Centres supported by some more central body? Does this have implications for governance, funding etc?
4. The Draft Policy on Community Colleges has as one of its purposes to provide the policy for the shift of PALCs to DHET. Could you comment on
 - a. Whether it is appropriate that the first Community Colleges established in April 2015 will be a Community College in each province made up of a sometimes large number of generally poorly performing PALCs¹;
 - b. How you intend to oversee a large number of widely distributed Adult Learning Centres from DHET in Pretoria;
 - c. How you propose to strengthen the capacity in DHET to both oversee the PALCs and to develop a vibrant Community College Sector?
5. What submissions has DHET made to Treasury in relation to creating the Community College Sector? What was their response? How do you plan to follow up? Is it possible to shift some resources from TVET to this sector?
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7. Decentralised versus centralised.

¹ See AG's draft report presented to the DG of DHET and described to us orally by AG representatives. See also Saide's Audit on GDE Adult Learning Centres of 2013 commissioned by the GDE.