

Email from John Aitchison to Edward French and David Adler

21 August 2017

Dear Ed

Nothing surprises me.

I think your response is very accurate and fair. Data on people's supposed prior educational experience and qualifications was always available in the database. My perception is that KRG's acceptance of people with higher than desired prior schooling was within reasonable bounds during the first few years, when Veronica McKay was in charge.

There would always have been a natural tendency, given that educators had to recruit their own learners, that as the years went on they would run out of genuine illiterates in their immediate locality and, if they wanted to keep getting paid, stuff overqualified people into the classes. This tendency could only have been avoided by moving to new areas and new educators (incidentally the Brazilian equivalent of KRG only allows an educator one innings) or getting the educators to move on to a higher ABE level with the old learners).

But one must note that if the educators were cheating, surely they would have disguised the fact! This 131k people with a prior qualifications -- I would like to know the breakdown of this. We also know that most children in school in grades 4 and 5 cannot actually read so KRG should never have been only restricted to no schooling illiterates. And who in their right mind would say that a learner had a degree -- surely a miscoding? The verification exercises did not find an overabundance of "high qualifications" - of course the people could have been lying but given the resources available to the verifiers what could they do. Checking on this was the job of supervisors and coordinators (and we know that Marongwa replaced many good supervisors and coordinators with new people).

Yes, I suspect the problem became worse under Marongwa when she turned KRG into a spaza shop recruitment agency for the faction of the ANCWL she was supporting and I am not surprised these educators stuffed the classes full of their friends and did very little actual teaching. Sad but small change given the general looting by the ANC government that has almost totally lost its way.

John