Education development and support centres (EDSCs) supporting rural development

An education centre network for the NW DoE, funded by the Royal Netherlands Embassy (RNE)
The Royal Netherland Embassy wishes to invest R160 million in programmes in KwaZulu-Natal over the next four years: R110 million in “Education centres supporting rural development”, and R50 million in “Schools as centres of care and support”, an HIV and AIDS programme. Programmes are scheduled to start on 1 May 2005.
Background to RNE funding
Background to RNE funding: MMRI

• Between September 2001 and April 2005, RNE has funded the Multi-Media Rural Initiative (MMRI).
• Through MMRI, 25 multi-media resource centres have been established in rural areas of KZN (14) and the North West (11).
• The focus has been on small centres close to schools.
• MMRI is a partnership between the NW and KZN DoEs, RNE, MiET and the MultiChoice Africa Foundation.
• MMRI has been a rural development pioneer.

• Through MMRI, rural centres were established with strong community ownership, serving both school clusters and communities.

• In 2003, MiET drew on the MMRI experience to establish 12 education centres for Ikhwezi, an Eastern Cape project funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC).
Principles of MMRI (and new)

- Supports rural development
- More small centres
- Needs driven, local ownership
- Clustering of schools for collective gain
- Links between schools and communities
- Multi-sectoral
- Bringing Department’s services close to schools
- Use existing buildings
Some achievements: Valuable links have been established between schools and communities.
Local women use centres to make and market crafts
The digital divide has been bridged for rural learners
Rural teachers and community members have touched a computer for the first time.
Teachers found professional development using multi-media useful and motivating.
Local empowerment of contractors who distribute materials from centres to rural schools
Schools have become centres of care and support for orphans and other vulnerable children.
• Schools and communities work together to combat HIV and AIDS and to care better for children.
The Swiss government chose Ikhwezi as flagship project to celebrate a decade of support for a democratic South Africa
Outcome

• A strategic review of all RNE programmes identified MMRI as a model with great potential, which can underpin the rural development and basic education programme that will be central to RNE’s next funding phase.

• RNE has therefore agreed to fund a network of centres in NW, in line with the province’s Strategy on EDSCs.
Existing centres

• **Head office:**
• **Corporate Centre**
• **Regional centres:**
  • **Bojanala East:** at regional office
  • **Bojanala West:** old Tlhabane College, Mankwe College and Mogwase Resource Centre
  • **Central Region:** Kebalepile
  • **Southern Region:**
    • Klerksdorp; Tlhatlhelelo Centre
    • Potchefstroom; EM Mokatsane Centre
  • **Bophirima:** Vuselela College (Taung Campus) and Mothibistad
Existing centres (continued)

**Multi-media Rural Initiative (MMRI) and other satellite centres:**

**Bophirima (MMRI centres):**
- Vuselela College (Taung Campus)
- Majeng, Omang, Lebang, Bosheng

**Bojanala West (MMRI centres):**
- Tlhabane, Batlhalerwa, Kgalekgatsane, Mononono

**Central Region (other satellite centres):**
- Itsoseng, Atamelang
The new RNE-funded programme
The proposed new programme

- KZN and North West
- 63 centres in North West
- Across all APOs, with a rural weighting
- RNE’s focus still on smaller centres close to schools
- NW DoE commitment needed to staff centres and pay running costs after funding ends
- HIV and AIDS programme “Schools as centres of care and support for children” funded separately by RNE
The proposed new programme (continued)

• Partnerships between RNE, NW DoE and MiET. Other service providers to be brought in.
• Department focus on school components, MiET on community programmes.
• Strong focus on participatory processes and on internal monitoring involving beneficiaries.
• SAIDE external evaluation partner, contracted in separately by RNE.
• Annual inter-provincial workshops to share lessons learnt.
Objectives (basis for budget)

1. Participatory processes to ensure buy-in
2. Establishment of 120 centres across 21 APOs
3. Capacity-building of management structures
4. Improving connectivity, communication and distribution
5. Delivering quality education programmes
6. Supporting socio-economic development of communities (plus OVCs)
7. Formative and summative monitoring and evaluation
How the model works…

• A network of 63 main and satellite centres across all APOs
• Exact location determined by APO, circuit, ward, local schools and communities
• Incremental development: 26 end of year 1
• Core and supplementary services and users
• NOT one size fits all: Facilities and services determined by local needs
Proposed framework
(Numbers for budgeting)

- One Corporate EDSC
- Four regional EDSCs
- 16 APO EDSCs
- 42 satellite EDSCs

- In Mmabatho
- In all regions except Central
- In all APOs that do not house regional centres
- About 2 per APO

For all: rural weighting in allocating to APOs
Diagram 1: A regional network of EDSCs

Regional level:
- Regional EDSC

APO level:
- APO Centre
- Satellite centre

School cluster level:
- APO centre
- School

Schools connected to the system at various levels, illustrating the network structure.
Figure 2: Core services that could be offered by education centres

Core services

Main and satellite education centres

Teacher professional development

Computer literacy and E-education

Distribution of LTSMs & other materials

Library services

HIV and AIDS education plus support for OVCs

Job creation & poverty alleviation

Supplementary services

ABET

Gender equity, democracy and human rights etc

ECD

Programmes for youth and communities
Financial information

- Total budget over 4 years: R110 million
- Percentage managed by NW DoE 69%
- Percentage managed by MiET 31%
- MiET will pay “low cost, high volume items”
- NW DoE to pay all staff costs from first year
- RNE to pay running and maintenance costs of centres over four years
- NW DoE to pay running and maintenance costs from Year 5
Accountability of NW DoE and MiET

1. Participatory processes
2. Establishing, equipping, maintaining centres
3. Capacity-building of management teams
4. Improving connectivity, communication and distribution
5. Delivering quality education programmes
6. Supporting socio-economic development of communities
7. Formative and summative monitoring and evaluation

Recurring costs

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>MiET</th>
<th>NW DoE</th>
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<td>Participatory processes</td>
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<td>Establishing, equipping, maintaining centres</td>
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<td>Capacity-building of management teams</td>
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<td>Supporting socio-economic development of communities</td>
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<td>Formative and summative monitoring and evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>MiET</td>
<td>$10.95 million</td>
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Proposed management structure

- RNE Programmes Executive Committee chaired by member of ExCo to coordinate both programmes
- Widely representative Steering Committee(s) for Education Centres and “Schools as centres of care and support” programmes.
- NW DoE has agreed to appoint a programme co-ordinator.
Thank you for listening