

THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF IMPLEMENTING THE SCHOOL UNIFORM PROGRAMME IN GAUTENG PROVINCE

Compiled by Mlungisi Dlamini using data from 2015/16 - 2017/18

BACKGROUND

- This PER focuses on the school uniforms programme that the Provincial Department of Social Development delivers to eradicate poverty and to address inequality in the society.
- The programme entails the identified members of the society generating income for their families through sewing of school uniforms that are distributed to poor learners.
- This programme forms part of government's war-on-poverty programmes.

INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

GAUTENG PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT WAS AMONG **FOUR PROVINCES** THAT STARTED THE ROLLOUT OF THE **NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME** THAT WOULD PROVIDE NEEDY LEARNERS WITH **FREE SCHOOL UNIFORMS** IN MARCH 2009

THE SCHOOL UNIFORMS PROGRAMME WAS PART OF A PLAN OF THE **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY (SASSA)** THAT AIMED AT PROVIDING BROADER SOCIAL RELIEF **TO FAMILIES AFFECTED BY POVERTY**

PERFORMANCE

THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE INCREASED FROM **R134.1 MILLION** IN 2015/16 TO **R147 MILLION** IN 2017/18

The expenditure dips to **R41.9 million** in 2018/19 because the department could not procure the **manufacturing input** after the government introduced a change in the supply chain management approach



THE PROGRAMME MAKES TRANSFER PAYMENTS TO NON-PROFIT INSTITUTIONS THAT OVERSEE THE **MANUFACTURE AND DELIVERY OF SCHOOL UNIFORMS**

The programme achieved a success rate that exceeds **80%** per annum between **2015/16** and **2017/18** financial years

COMPARISON OF SCHOOL UNIFORM PACKS DISTRIBUTED VERSUS TARGETS



RECOMMENDATIONS

The department should centrally purchase the materials and distribute them to the non-profit institutions. The economies of scale and the elimination of institutions' mark-ups on purchases should yield savings

The department should assess the cost structure in non-profit institutions that participate in the school uniforms programme to determine a suitable level of unit overhead cost reduction.