

ASSESSMENT OF THE SCHOLAR TRANSPORT PROGRAMME IN GAUTENG OVER THE 2019 MTEF

Compiled by Kulani Mtleni using data from 2015/16 - 2018/19

BACKGROUND

- This **PER** assess the implementation of the **Scholar Transport Programme (STP)** in Gauteng, and the efficacy of the funding model.
- The expenditure was reviewed from 2015/16 to 2018/19.

INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

- Transportation of learners to schools has always been a key challenge confronting government in South Africa.
- To address this challenge, the **Department of Roads and Transport (DRT)** in collaboration with **Gauteng Department of Education (GDE)** developed the **National Learner Transport Policy**.
- Learner transport is provided based on several guiding principles, including operational safety and efficiency, broad based access, equity and redress, operational sustainability and multi-modal integration.
- Important role-players are:
 - The Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport
 - Local government (municipalities)
 - Schools
 - Gauteng Department of Education
 - Local Scholar Transport Committees
 - Operators

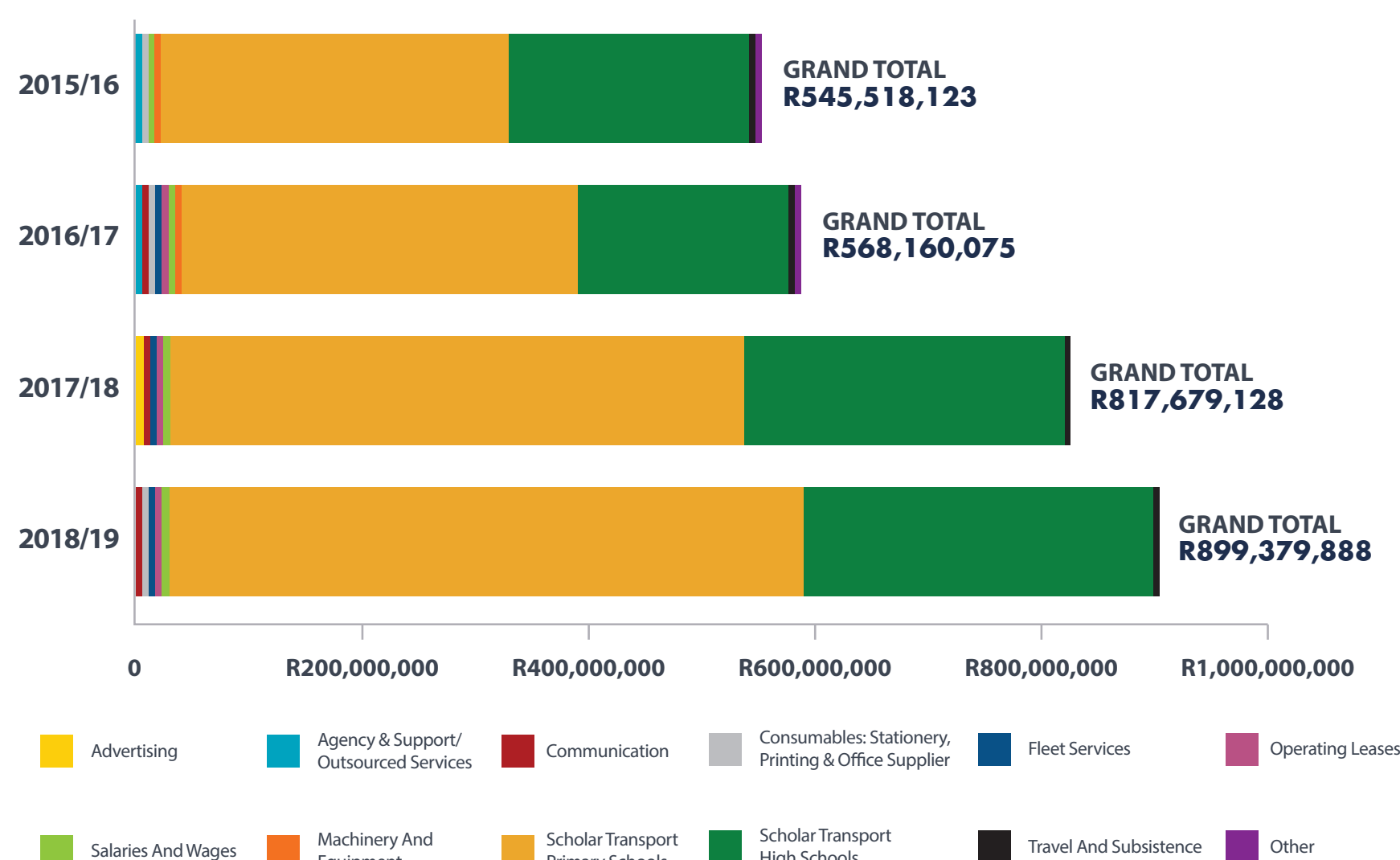
PERFORMANCE

IN 2015/16, GDE SPENT **1.5%** OF ITS BUDGET ON THE STP AND THIS INCREASED TO ABOUT **2%** IN 2018/19

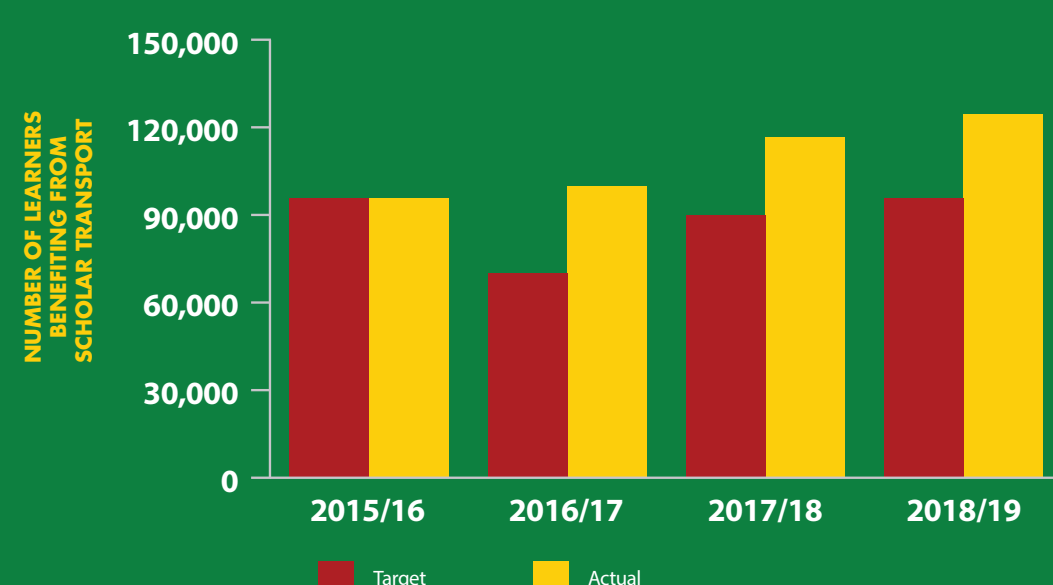
THE PROVINCE'S COMMITMENT IS DEMONSTRATED BY AN INCREASE IN FUNDING OVER THE PAST YEARS

THE DEPARTMENT'S SPENDING INCREASED FROM **R545.5 MILLION** IN 2015/16 **TO** **R899.4 MILLION** IN 2018/19

LEARNER NUMBERS INCREASED **FROM 95,718 TO 124,533** DURING THE SAME PERIOD



PERFORMANCE INDICATOR



EVERY YEAR THERE ARE **25,000** MORE LEARNERS THAN THE DEPARTMENT HAS PLANNED FOR

THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ADJUSTING ITS TARGET UPWARD EACH YEAR BUT THE DEMAND FOR STP IN GAUTENG **KEEPS GROWING**

THIS IS A CLEAR INDICATION THAT THERE IS A NEED TO REALISTICALLY AND ACCURATELY IDENTIFY LEARNERS ELIGIBLE FOR LEARNER TRANSPORT IN GAUTENG

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Review the **Remunerative Model** for increased efficiency.
- Prioritise districts remote areas (such as Ekurhuleni North and Johannesburg Central) with higher demand for scholar transport when building new schools.
- Revise the allocation for the programme over the **Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF)** period to ensure that sufficient resource is made available.
- Introduce a new facility on its online application that will enable them to identify learners who will require transport during the application phase.