

## **NASCEE's Participation in Education the Ministers' Dialogue**

NASCEE was honoured to be invited to contribute on behalf of NGOs in the education sector to the Dialogue with the Minister of Basic Education last week. The request was for stakeholders to reflect on the last 15 years, highlighting the improvements and outlining key recommendations for the future. NASCEE received input from 28 organisations through a quick-fire survey that was sent to all members.

Here is a summary of what was presented:

### **Key Improvements**

1. **Stability and System Calm:** Post the challenges of the OBE curriculum the last 15 years have seen relative stability in the education system.
2. The foregrounding of **Early grade numeracy and literacy** and mobilising resources around these priorities.
3. Incorporating **ECD** within the DBE and the active prioritisation of ECD as an important foundation for lifelong learning and success.
4. Increased focus on **mother tongue education**
5. Building the foundations for a greater **data driven culture** across the system. A shift in the use of data as a tool to inform and guide.
6. Significant strides made in enhancing **digital** literacy, access to digital resources, and the utilisation of EdTech tools within classrooms.
7. **School feeding** extended to secondary schools with significant improvement in the quality of meals served to learners on time.
8. The introduction of **teacher assistants** and recognition that youth have a role to play in making difficult teaching environments more manageable.
9. **Initial Teacher Education** has been given more attention (FUNZA Lushaka and NSFAS bursaries)
10. Access to **CAPS materials across the system.**
11. The introduction of the **Three-Stream model** is critical to the economy.



12. Greater **engagement with civil society** and education social change entities.
13. Teacher unions are working much more **collaboratively** within the system.

### **Key Recommendations for Future Administrations:**

1. **Focus on the foundations:** Get the foundations in place and continue to focus on plans that are already in place. Don't get distracted!
2. **Invest in building systems capacity:** Build a long-term plan for capacity development at all levels of the system.
3. **Anchor ECD:** Champion and drive increased investment in the systems and resourcing of the ECD sector.
4. **Continue to prioritise early grade literacy and numeracy:** Ensure integration of clear long-term strategy with practical implementation plan.
5. **Prioritise support for learner backlogs:** Consider building in extra time for dealing with learning backlogs at senior levels.
6. **Ensure access to internet connectivity:** Drive partnerships to ensure greater access to internet connectivity in all schools and leverage off Edtech opportunities.
7. **Continue to champion a data culture:** Align priorities with measurable indicators that are tracked, and visualised.
8. **Teacher assistants:** Create a clear career pathway for teacher assistants.
9. **Collaboration:** Actively collaborate and partner with civil society to innovate, and prototype high-impact and scalable initiatives.

