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PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

FIRST REPORT

**OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, SPORT AND
CULTURE ON THE HALF-YEAR BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE**

SECOND SESSION, SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Presented to Parliament – November, 2006

[S. C. 27, 2006]

ORDERED IN TERMS OF S. O. NO. 151:

- (1) At the commencement of every session, there shall be as many select committees to be designated according to government portfolios to examine expenditure, administration and policy of government departments and other matters falling under their jurisdictions as the House may by resolution determine and whose members shall be nominated by the Standing Rules and Orders Committee. Such nominations shall take into account the expressed interests, experience or expertise of the members and the political and gender composition of the House.
- (2) Each select committee shall be known by the portfolio determined for it by the House.

TERMS OF REFERENCE S.O. NO. 152:

Subject to these Standing Orders, a portfolio committee shall –

- (a) consider and deal with bills and statutory instruments or other matters which are referred to it by or under a resolution of the House or by the Speaker;
- (b) consider or deal with an appropriation or money bill or any aspect of an appropriation or money bill referred to it by these Standing Orders or by resolution of the House; and
- (c) monitor, investigate, enquire into and make recommendations relating to any aspect of the legislative, budget, policy or any other matter it may consider relevant to the government department falling within the category of affairs assigned to it, and may for that purpose consult and liaise with such department;
- (d) consider or deal with all international treaties, conventions and agreements relevant to it, which are from time to time negotiated, entered into or agreed upon.

ANNOUNCED:

Tuesday, 19th of July, 2005
That the Committee consists of the
following:

Hon. J. Madubeko, Hon T. H. Maluleke,
Hon. E. Maziriri, Hon. N. Mguni, Hon F.
G. Mhashu, Hon. L. Moyo, Hon Prof.
J.N. Moyo, Hon. L. Mupukuta, Hon. W.
Mutomba, Hon. G. Mutsekwa, Hon. C.
Pote and Hon Chief N. Z. J. Shana.
Hon. F. G. Mhashu to be Chairman

ANNOUNCED:

Thursday, 23rd February 2006
That the Committee consists of the
following Senators:

Hon Senator A. Chimbudzi, Hon
Senator J. J. Chindanya, Hon Senator S
Mkusha and Hon Senator Chief
Sengwe.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 As part of its oversight function, the Committee on Education Sport and Culture carried out a review of the half-year 2006 budget performance for the Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture. The objective of the Committee in monitoring budget performance was to ensure accountability in the use of public funds, identify problem areas and suggest solutions or recommendations for improvement. The review of the budget performance also enhances the representative role of the Members of Parliament.

2. Methodology

- 2.1 The Committee analysed the half-year budget performance report submitted by the Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture before inviting the Ministry officials to clarify some of the issues raised in the half-year budget performance report and apprise the Committee on the impact of the Supplementary budget on the Ministry's finances. The interaction with the Committee assisted in the effective monitoring of the half-year budget performance of the Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture as well as instilling some understanding of the challenges faced by the Ministry. The Committee appreciates the good working relationship that exists between it and the Ministry officials. It is the Committee's hope that this relationship will go a long way in enhancing a participatory, transparent budget making and monitoring process.

3. Major objectives for 2006

The Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture informed the Committee that its major objectives for 2006 were as follows:

- To establish Early Childhood Development Classes (ECD) for the 4 – 5 year olds in at least 30% of all primary schools.
- To phase out hot sitting in 9 primary and 5 Secondary schools.
- To provide requisite infrastructure and facilities for 6 primary and 6 Secondary Schools.

- To supervise, monitor, evaluate and report on at least 25% of the schools and ECD centres.
- To provide in-service training for at least 305 of the Ministry's personnel.
- To provide all schools with grants to assist in the procurement of the requisite textbooks, teaching and learning materials.
- To promote and develop ICT, computer education and e-governance.
- To reduce drop out rate and improve retention from 92% to 95%
- To establish 72 district Vocational/Technical model centres.
- To provide feeding programmes in at least 10 % of all schools.
- To account for all resources disbursed to Ministry clients during the year within the stipulated statutory deadlines.

In order for the Ministry to achieve the above objectives, it was allocated \$16.4 trillion (old currency). The allocation was distributed as follows:

Table: 1 Percentage distribution of the 2006 Budget Allocation: Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture

Sub Head	Percentage
Employment costs (Salaries and allowances)	91.11%
Capital and Recurrent transfers to Parastatals	2.65%
Educational Development Budget	6.24%

It is against the above allocations and targets that your Committee monitored budget performance of the Ministry of Education Sport and Culture. The Committee noted that over 91% of the budget was for employment costs which are non-discretionary and cannot be diverted to other educational purposes.

4. General Overview of Half Year Budget Performance

- 4.1 The Ministry officials informed the Committee that the hyperinflationary environment during the first six months of the financial year under review had adversely affected the implementation of the targeted activities and programmes. The officials further stated that in the budget utilization period under review, recurrent expenditure was affected by the cost of living adjustment awarded to civil servants that caused the expenditure to over shoot the target and was at 104% of the allocation instead of the targeted 50%. The Committee was informed that even after receiving the additional funding from the Supplementary budget, the Ministry still had a budget deficit of \$ 5 billion. By and large, the Committee noted that the expenditure pattern of the Ministry of Education Sport and Culture was characterized by high expenditures, well above the 50% target to June 2006 and this was attributed to the current hyperinflationary environment. As a result of the budgetary constraints, the Ministry failed to achieve its targets during the first six months of the 2006 financial year. The total half-year expenditure stood at 81% of the total 2006 allocation.

4.2 Current Transfers

This line item consists of per capita grants to schools. Per capita grants are meant to assist non-government schools to procure teaching and learning materials. The Committee noted that this line item had expenditures of 70 and 100% for non-government primary and secondary schools respectively. The per capita grant rates for 2006 are as follows:

Primary School (P1) - \$ 4000

Primary School (P2) - \$ 8000

Primary School (P3) - \$ 14 500

Secondary School (S1) - \$ 12 000

Secondary School (S2) - \$ 25000

Secondary School (S3) - \$ 50 000.

It was however noted that the rates are too low and inadequate thus the schools in question were unable to purchase essential teaching and learning materials. It should also be noted that the majority of rural day primary and secondary schools do not have adequate textbooks, library books and writing materials. The inadequacy of these materials means that it is difficult to achieve high quality education. It is the Committee's view that efforts should be made to review the per capita grants and amend the statutory requirements governing the payment of these funds given the current hyperinflationary environment.

4.3 Purchase of vehicles

The Committee was informed that one of the major constraints encountered by the Ministry of Education Sport and Culture during the period under review was the shortage of transport, which resulted in officers being unable to visit and supervise schools. This should be viewed in light of the fact that the Ministry had decentralized education administration to districts to enhance the supervisory machinery. The Ministry previously had structures only at Provincial Offices. The Ministry therefore urgently requires vehicles in order to ensure effective service delivery. The Committee was informed that the Ministry had been allocated funds for 78 vehicles in the 2006 budget but by June 2006 no funds had been disbursed for the purchase of the vehicles. However, the Committee appreciates the fact that the Ministry subsequently received an allocation of \$ 100 million (re-valued) for the purchase of vehicles for schools supervision and project monitoring in the Supplementary budget. The amount, however, is sufficient to purchase eight vehicles only. Thus, the shortage of transport will continue to compromise the supervision and monitoring of schools and ultimately the quality of education for the foreseeable future.

4.4 Capital Transfers

The Committee was informed that capital transfers to parastatals had been paid in full. The Committee was pleased to note that the Zimbabwe Schools Examination Council (ZIMSEC) had procured a Printing Press for printing examination materials. It is the Committee's considered view that the acquisition of the Printing Press will go a long way towards solving some of the problems faced by ZIMSEC since the localization of public examinations.

4.5 Construction Works

Capital development in the Ministry was allocated \$665 billion (old currency) and by 30 June 2006, \$ 373.6 billion had been spent, giving a utilization rate of 56%. There are 112 projects under construction in 2006 twenty-eight of which are ongoing. The Committee is concerned that some of the projects have been ongoing for a long time. While the government comes up with new capital projects almost every year there is need to speed up the completion of the existing projects that have been on the cards for a long time.

4.6 Sport and Cultural Promotions

The Committee is cognizant of the importance of Sport and Culture in Zimbabwe. The Committee however, noted that there was low expenditure on the Sport promotions line item (1%). In fact, the figures submitted by the Ministry indicate that none of the provinces had utilised their allocation for sport promotion during the first half of the 2006 financial year. The Committee was also disturbed to note that only one province out of ten, namely, Matabeleland South had utilised 63% of its allocation for cultural promotions. The other nine provinces had not utilised their allocation during the period under review.

4.7 Secondary Education

The major highlights in this department were as follows:

- Overall expenditure was above the 50% pro rata to June 2006.
- Personal Emoluments consumed 106% of the total allocation whilst maintenance consumed 31% of the total allocation for the year.
- Tuition grants consumed 60% of the total budget allocation for 2006.

4.8 Primary Education

Most of the sub heads under this department were above the 50% pro rata to June 2006. The major highlights were as follows:

4.8.1 Utilities and service charges consumed 51% of its allocation.

4.8.2 Goods and Services consumed 56% of the budget allocation.

4.8.3 Tuition grants consumed 68% of the allocated funds.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Having noted the challenges that the Ministry faced during the first half of the 2006 financial year and the efforts being taken to address the challenges, the Committee recommends the following:
- 5.2 Whilst government efforts to give per capita grants is highly commendable, the Committee is of the view that it is better to raise the grants and give these to schools as a once off payment, preferably at the beginning of each year.
- 5.3 Since ZIMSEC has now procured a Printing Press for the printing of examination materials, concerted efforts should be made to tighten security during the transportation of examination papers to various centres.
- 5.4 Decentralisation of education administration to districts is highly commended. The government should ensure that the Ministry is allocated adequate funds to purchase 78 vehicles, one for each of the educational

districts. These vehicles are meant to impact on the quality of education through the monitoring and supervision of teachers.

6. **Conclusion**

- 6.1 The Committee is very grateful for the co-operation it received from the Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture. It is the Committee's hope that the current challenges facing the Ministry will be overcome for the enhancement of our education system.