

Philanthropy in Education in South Africa Roundtable

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January 2019**



PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Purpose
- Introduction
- Philanthropy in Basic Education
- Key observations
- Concluding comments

Purpose

To present the response of the Department of Basic Education to the Philanthropy in Education Roundtable.

Introduction

- The main objective of education philanthropy is to improve learning outcomes through the provision of enabling mechanisms.
- The primary objective is to ensure that schools can provide equitable opportunities of success for all learners.
- This implies that the basic education sector has a responsibility to ensure that there is visible improvement in the role that education must play in changing lives.

Philanthropy in Basic Education

- In South Africa, and specifically, basic education sector, an emerging case study of philanthropists working together to support government services has largely been through the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT), European Union (EU) and other agencies.
- The presence and contribution of these agencies have influenced the agenda of reform of basic education.
- This has enabled the basic education sector to address challenges and barriers to learning and development.

Key observations

- Collaboration takes considerable time, patience and effort to realise effectiveness. Therefore, results take time to show.
- This requires that there is space for building trust and ensuring that (education) philanthropists and government are open to each other.
- In basic education, philanthropy is understood as a partnership that cannot work where each party believes that they know all the answer.
- There is a need for aligning different interests among philanthropists and between philanthropists and government.

Key observations

- There is a need to strengthen co-funding processes, joint governance, and joint monitoring, reporting and evaluation.
- Parties need to ensure consistency and synergy with existing structures and avoiding parallel structures.
- In some cases, buy-in and mutual understanding take time and effort, while in some cases, parties stop playing when philanthropists are in town.

Key observations

- There is a need to ensure better understanding of each other, greater commitment to work together and identifying opportunities for collaboration.
- There are areas of importance: access to networks, sharing of strategic direction and support and assisting with enhancing visibility and advocacy.

Concluding comments

- Martin Luther King Jr. contends that “Every [person] must decide whether [they] will walk in the creative light of altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness. This is the judgement. Life’s persistent and most urgent question is “What are you doing for others?”
- In basic education, we have philanthropists who understand the weight of life on our shoulders, and we are grateful.

Every child is a National Asset

Thank you!

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