

COMMENTS DURING THE LAUNCH OF EMIS GUIDELINES

**MR BHEKI MPANZA : CHIEF DIRECTOR OF
INFORMATION AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS
DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION**

16 SEPTEMBER 2020



PRIORITIES IN USING THE EMIS GUIDE

1. Introductory remarks

In South Africa we took a drastic decision twelve years ago to move away from using surveys but adopted collection of unit record information from schools. This was supported by the providing all schools with free school administration software called South African School Administration and Management System (SA-SAMS).

2. Coordination

Coordination structures are very important, especially in the environment whereby provision of education is a concurrent function. In South Africa we have EMIS Coordination Committee that meets twice a year to provide oversight role on the activities of EMIS. We also have National Education Information Policy that give the Department of Basic Education a mandate to collect information from public and private schools.

3. Priorities

Taking three areas of work to be the following three, namely standard traditional EMIS gathering and reporting, working on school level systems whereby reporting is “just” a by-product and unit record information. The most challenging task we faced in South Africa was the introduction of a transactional system at a school level. This was due to the fact that schools are at different levels when comes to IT infrastructure. Also we had to work hard on change management.

4. Getting data used more

EMIS information is self reported by school principals, therefore there is always inherent trust deficit. There is also a challenge of lack of capacity by policy owners to comprehend huge volume of data collected by EMIS. What is helping South Africa is that we have super-users, like Economist attached to the Universities. Our challenge now is to collect performance information but we are working closely with the Policy owners to embrace EMIS as a credible platform to collect this information.