



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NON-COMPULSORY BRIEFING SESSION – MS TEAMS

DATE: 27 February 2025

TIME: 10:00 to 11:00

TENDER NUMBER DBE202

DESCRIPTION: Appointment of three Non-Profit Organisations to support Early Childhood Development programmes for a period of three years (2025/26 to 2027/28)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Ms N Metula:

- i. welcomed everyone and introduced the Department of Basic Education's (DBE) team; that is Mr R Legodi, Ms N Banda from Supply Chain Management and Dr J Kotze, the Project Manager. Ms M Ntloana might also join the session later.
- ii. gave the bidders an opportunity to introduce themselves (indicating the individual's names and the name of the company/ organisation one is presenting).

2. BID PRESENTATION

Presentation of the Terms of Reference by Dr Kotze

3. SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT (SCM) MATTERS

The SCM indicated that:

- i. The Briefing Session is non-compulsory as indicated in the Tender advert. Non-attendance to the briefing session does not lead to disqualification of the bidders' proposal/s.
- ii. The tender is closing on **18 March 2025 at 11:00**. A bid which is submitted after 11:00 will be regarded as late and will not be accepted by the DBE. The tender box is situated on the right-hand side before accessing the main entrance (from the gate) to the reception; and is clearly marked "TENDERS". With regard to the submission of bigger documents, reception will call the SCM officials who would register the document/s in the Register for receiving the tender documents. Bids must be submitted as hard copies; electronic/ emailed submissions will not be accepted by the DBE.
- iii. Bids must be submitted as hard copies; electronic/ emailed submissions will not be accepted by the DBE.
- iv. An original bid proposal/ document will be sufficient, there is no need for copies.
- v. The discussions during the briefing session and the questions raised after the briefing session will be consolidated, responded to and uploaded on the Department's website (www.education.gov.za), eTender Portal (www.etenders.gov.za) where the tender advert and documents are published. Bidders can still forward the clarity seeking questions regarding the bid until twelve (12) days before the tender closes. The questions should be directed to Tenders@dbe.gov.za and make reference to the tender number.
- vi. Bidders must read the Mandatory Requirements carefully as listed in the TORs and ensure that they respond as required. Also see the tax requirements listed on SBD1, Part B. Below the table it is stated that "Failure to provide/ or comply with any of the above particulars may render the bid invalid".
- vii. Bidders must fully complete, sign and submit (with their bid document) the SBD forms which were uploaded with this tender document by the Department. Alteration or re-typing of the SBD forms is not allowed and will lead to the disqualification of the bid submitted.

4. QUESTIONS RAISED AND RESPONSES PROVIDED (during the briefing session)

No.	Question	Response/ clarity
1.	Have the 50 ECD centres already been identified?	i. The Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres have not yet been identified; mostly because it would depend on the bids received.

		<p>ii. 50 different ECD programmes would be allocated to 3 different NPOs and they will not all be working at the same ECD centres.</p> <p>iii. There would be different organizations bidding for different objectives, and the Department also need to engage with the province on this matter.</p>
2.	Does the training need to be accredited?	<p>Credit bearing training programmes would be beneficial, but the proposed training should be flexibly designed to assist with the recognition of prior learning process, enabling the ECD practitioners to apply for advanced learning in NQF registered programmes.</p> <p>This flexibility is necessary to ensure that the training caters to the diverse needs of the different ECD practitioners. Given the nature of the early learning programme delivery, the proposed training can be facilitated through a skills programme.</p> <p>If a bidder is proposing a learnership program then it would be appreciated if it is at NQF level 4 or above.</p>
3.	The TORs states that the Department is looking for new organisations; can the organizations that had received funding in previous years bid for this tender?	Yes, there is nothing precluding previous organisations to bid again.
4.	What are the total costs projected for a project like this one, what is budgeted for this project?	The Department cannot share the project's budgeted costs, but the guide that is provided on paragraph 1.2.a. of the SBD6.1 form is that "The applicable preference point system for this tender is the 80/20 preference point system". Paragraph 1.1 of the SBD6.1 form states that "The following preference point system are applicable to invitations to tender: - the 80/20 system for requirements with a Rand value of up to R50 000 000 (all applicable taxes included)".
5.	The understanding is that it is three organizations with a total of 50 ECD centres each; so the whole programme is looking at 150 ECD centres in total.	The intention is that each bidder, whether it is a single bidder or a consortium/ joint venture will be responsible for 50 ECD programmes.

	Can a consortium bid for the full 150 ECDs with the different implementing partners in the consortium, each taking 50 ECD centres, or would a consortium only be allocated 50 ECD centres?	
6.	<p>On the 50 ECD centres that you may or may not have identified, would the Department want the NPOs currently working in that area to identify the ECD centres?</p> <p>Are the NPOs allowed to use the current ECD centres that they are currently working with, or the Department wants them to look for additional 50 ECD centres or that will be determined at a later stage?</p>	NPOs can propose ECD centres that they want to work with, but the intention is that the support should be going to new ECD programmes that have not been supported previously. However, the final list of NPOs will be decided upon in consultation with the Provincial Education Department.
7.	The evaluations behind this program seemed to be immense; is there a comprehensive document that puts these evaluations together and tells in detail where the problems are.	No, the Department does not have a comprehensive document linked specifically to this tender with all that background information.
8.	Mpumalanga is a vast region; has the DBE identified specific areas where they want to focus on?	The DBE has not identified those districts/ areas yet. The principle to be used is looking at the most vulnerable and under-served areas and would be doing this in conversation with Mpumalanga Province.
9.	If Bidders form a joint venture or a consortium, should all constituent entities be NPOs or for example, can a joint venture/ consortium be between an accredited training provider and an accredited NPO or it should strictly be NPOs in a consortium or a joint venture?	The lead organization should be an NPO.
10.	<p>i. Is there any reason behind choosing Mpumalanga?</p> <p>ii. Why specifically Mpumalanga was nominated and not any other province or set of provinces for this particular project?</p>	<p>i. Mpumalanga was selected based on all the different interventions that are currently happening and the support that is being provided to different provinces. This was the province the DBE realised could benefit most from this project at this point in time.</p> <p>ii. Reiterated that we have looked and done a scoping of all the different projects is currently happening in the different provinces and based on that, we've identified Mpumalanga the province that will require additional support and that is the reason why we have selected Mpumalanga.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. A follow up on the issue of choosing Mpumalanga Province was that if someone in Limpopo can only apply for Limpopo and make arrangements to go to all 5 regions/ districts in Limpopo. iv. Is this tender meant for rolling-out in Mpumalanga only, or it is going nationally? v. What is the situation in a case where one wants to go the route of Objective 1 only, which is Training and Mentoring of ECD practitioners? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. This project is specifically focusing on implementation in the Mpumalanga Province. Organisations based in other provinces can apply, but it should be recognised that implementation will be solely in the Mpumalanga province. iv. This project is specifically focusing in the Mpumalanga Province only. v. The Terms of Reference specifies that bidders should support ECD programmes with at least three of the four objectives.
11.	After the 3-year period obviously the NPOs would have done the training and would be mentoring, doing evaluations etc. What happens to the 50 ECDs after that, is there an extension in terms of continuing with the program?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. There would not be an extension on the contracts after three years. ii. The intention is that through this three-year period, the support provided should give these ECD practitioners the training skills to continue with the work that they have been doing and similarly the registration piece or the other support pieces should build them up and ensure that they are at a point where they can sustainably continue with the work and the new skills that they have acquired.
12.	It was noted that under the Mandatory Requirements, there is an NPO registration certificate required which is issued by the Department of Social Development. Is it possible that the DBE could accept any other proof in a case where an organization is still busy attaining the certificate?	This is one of the critical requirements of this tender that the organization has to be registered as an NPO with the Department of Social Development. Bidders must comply with the requirements of the Terms of Reference as published which is the certificate from Department of Social Development.
13.	Can someone in Limpopo also bid for this tender or it is meant for people in Mpumalanga and around?	Any organisation can bid as long as they are aware that the intervention in the ECD programmes has to happen in Mpumalanga Province regardless of where the organisation is housed.
Questions raised by the Bidder before the Briefing Session were as follows and were read in the Briefing session		

Question		Clarity
1.	<p>i. The envisaged training, is it for accredited credit bearing certification or for participation certificate?</p> <p>ii. The envisaged training, will it be for a learnership or skills programme?</p> <p>iii. If it will be a learnership, what level should it be?</p>	<p>i. While a credit-bearing training programme would be beneficial, the proposed training should be flexibly designed to assist with the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process, enabling the attendee to apply for advanced standing in an NQF registered programme. This flexibility ensures that the training caters to the diverse needs of the ECD practitioners.</p> <p>ii. Given the nature of Early Learning programme delivery, the proposed training can be facilitated through a skills programme. This practical approach should directly support and enhance the opportunities for further development, making the training highly applicable to the daily work of the ECD practitioners.</p> <p>iii. Should a learnership programme be made available, it would be appreciated at NQF Level 4 and above.</p>

5. CONCLUSION

Bidders were reminded:

- That they could send ask questions until at least 12 days before the closing date. Questions must be sent to Tenders@dbe.gov.za
- To be mindful of the tender closing date as published.

Ms N Metula thanked the Bidders for attending the briefing session and wished them well with the preparation and submission of their bids.

The session was adjourned.

6. QUESTION RAISED AFTER THE BRIEFING SESSION AND THE RESPONSE

No.	Question	Response/ clarity
1.	<p>Objective 2 – Support ECD programmes to become registered with the DBE.</p> <p>In the Bana Pele Registration drive document circulated – It states that the support role does not expect infrastructure, etc. I wanted to ensure that this is the case in terms of the Tender?</p>	<p>Phase 1 of the ECD registration process does not require infrastructure support, however, phase 2 (Silver/ Gold registration) may require infrastructure support, dependent on the current situation of the ECD programme. Although it is not a requirement to provide infrastructure support, we realise that this is something that could be invaluable to enable an ECD programme to become registered and therefore to be able to apply for the ECD subsidy. Given this, it would be preferable if the supporting NGO could engage with a strategy in which they can enable ECD programmes to attain Silver/ Gold registration.</p>

THE TENDER CLOSING DATE IS 18 MARCH 2025 AT 11:00.