

South Africa: Department Tackles Kha Ri Gude Concerns

Cape Town — Basic Education Director General Mathanzima Mveli says the department is addressing concerns raised by the Auditor General on the department's Kha Ri Gude programme.

In the department's annual report, the Auditor General found that volunteers were paid stipends without learners in class.

Due to such claims, an amount of R44.3 million was incurred as fruitless and wasteful expenditure at the time of the audit, pending a departmental investigation.

"We are saying that up to now, we have looked at these cases as we have promised you ... 95 of these related cases have been concluded and we have already started recovering money," Mveli said on Tuesday in his address to the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education.

Kha Ri Gude is a Tshivenda phrase which means 'let us learn'. It teaches adults who missed out on their schooling, who cannot read or write.

The campaign was launched in February 2008 to enable 4.7 million adults above the age of 15 years to become literate and numerate in one of the 11 official languages.

Some 6 172 cases of volunteers, who were paid stipends, were identified by the office of the Auditor General.