THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ‘NO-FEE’ SCHOOL POLICY
IN SELECTED PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN LIMPOPO

BY

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SUPERVISOR: PROF RJ BOTHA

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DECLARATION

I, Mapitsi Phineas Setoaba, declare that THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 'NO-FEE' SCHOOL POLICY IN SELECTED PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN LIMPOPO is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references.

SETOABA, MP
DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my late parents, Tlou Marcus Setoaba and Mmatlala Mmaphuti Setoaba, and to my late grandmother, Ntotole Monawa Makhura, who raised me and made me who I am today. I am sure they would have applauded this achievement without reservations.
I, Mapitsi Phineas Setoaba, gratefully acknowledge the following contributors for having made this dissertation a successful and memorable piece of work:

- God Almighty, in whom I trust, for guiding me and bestowing in me the wisdom to organise and conduct this project,
- Mrs. Beauty Leah Motjatji SETOABA, my beloved wife, for her words of encouragement, motivation and endless support from the beginning to the completion of this study,
- Prof RJ BOTHA, my promoter, for his honest but positive criticism that guided and fine-tuned this final research product,
- Mrs. A THOMAS and Mr. AM MTHANJI, who edited the first study-proposal attempt and thus exposed me to research requirements and principles,
- Mrs. Jacquie du PLESSIS, for editing and proofreading the final research proposal and chapters, and for her sterling advice and remarks,
- The staff at Potgietersrus Circuit Office for binding the study proposal and chapters,
- The Limpopo Department of Education for granting me permission to conduct this research in ‘no-fee’ primary schools in Limpopo, and
- Principals, Treasurers, and Chairpersons of School governing bodies of the schools studied, for responding unreservedly to the research questions.
## ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>ABSA:</td>
<td>Amalgamated Banks of South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANC:</td>
<td>African National Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW:</td>
<td>Council for Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DA:</td>
<td>Democratic Alliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DoE:</td>
<td>Department of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMI:</td>
<td>Education Management Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>ELRC:</td>
<td>Education Labour Relations Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETP:</td>
<td>Education and Training Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GER:</td>
<td>Gross Enrolment Ratio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID:</td>
<td>Independent Democrats</td>
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<tr>
<td>LDoE:</td>
<td>Limpopo Department of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>LTSM:</td>
<td>Learner and Teacher Support Material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEC:</td>
<td>Member of the Executive Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAPTOSA:</td>
<td>National Professional Teachers’ Organisation of South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>NFSP:</td>
<td>No-fee school policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PED:</td>
<td>Provincial Education Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTR:</td>
<td>Pupil–Teacher Ratio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSA:</td>
<td>Republic of South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SABC:</td>
<td>South African Broadcasting Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SADTU:</td>
<td>South African Democratic Teachers’ Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SASA:</td>
<td>South African Schools Act No. 84 of 1996 (as amended)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SFAP:</td>
<td>School Fee Abolition Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SGB:</td>
<td>School-Governing Body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNESCO:</td>
<td>United Nations Education and Scientific Organisation</td>
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<td>UNISA:</td>
<td>University of South Africa</td>
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SUMMARY

South Africa began with the ‘no-fee’ school policy (NFSP) implementation on 01 January 2007. The policy abolished mandatory school fees in public ordinary schools to make basic education available to poor learners in the country.

However, critics argued that the NFSP implementation made poor schools poorer and needed researched. This prompted an exploration on “No-fee schools’ inability to address the needs of the poor in Limpopo”

The researcher randomly sampled ten ‘no-fee’ primary schools for the study. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews and documentation. Interviewees were principals, treasurers and chairpersons of school governing bodies from the schools studied. The collected data were analysed through inductive techniques. The study discovered that the no-fee schools were unable to address the needs of the poor in Limpopo.

The study concluded with recommendations for empowering no-fee schools on addressing the needs of the poor in Limpopo and for topics on future research.

Key terms

Implementation; “No-fee” school; “No-fee” school policy (NFSP); mandatory school fees, Primary school; Selected primary schools; Limpopo.