

NASCEE Regional Chapter - Cape Town

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In the final Cape Town networking event of the year, NASCEE invited Don Haripersad (Director: Curriculum Development FET) to speak on the WCED's strategic goals for 2025 and beyond. NASCEE's CEO Giles Gillett began the event by welcoming guests and providing an overview of NASCEE's recent work and priorities for next year. He gave an update on NASCEE's Education NGO Dashboard which maps the activities and geographical reach of NGOs. The tool is invaluable in aligning efforts, promoting collaboration, informing NGOs of government priorities and informing government (and others such as funders and researchers) of the types of support that NGOs offer. For further information on NASCEE's mapping survey and to add your organisation to the database, please follow this [link](#).

He then introduced Mr Haripersad who shared his insights into the WCED's strategic goals for 2025. These goals are aligned to the WCED's Annual Performance Plan, which outlines key priorities and targets, including a priority to strengthen public-private partnerships. Mr Haripersad spoke of the WCED's commitment to addressing learning gaps, strengthening numeracy and literacy, and building teacher agency. He highlighted the opportunity for schools to be more responsive to learners' context and offer subjects that increase opportunities for employment in the region surrounding a school. This is a focus of WCED as they look towards supporting specialised schools and the establishment of three-stream schools (academic, vocational, occupational) to equip learners with the skills and experience they require to access employment.

“Proposals must be strategic, data-driven, and designed to complement existing departmental programmes”

In his presentation, Mr Haripersad underscored the invaluable role that NGOs play. His address emphasised the shared responsibility of NGOs and government in strengthening the education system. The success of relationships between the education department (from district to national level) and NGOs depends on NGOs being proactive in identifying how their work can complement that of the government's and on ensuring that any project they present to the government is aligned with the department's priorities. Because of the high number of NGOs who approach the government with proposals, the quality of the proposal and clarity as to the value that an organisation will be providing has to be evident for it to be considered. To this end, proposals must be strategic, data-driven, and designed to complement existing departmental programmes.

Mr Haripersad stressed the benefit of close consultation with departmental officials from the onset of any project planning to ensure relevance and an alignment to departmental priorities. He recommended that in all planning, NGOs are responsive to what is required in a specific community and position themselves in innovative ways that respond to funders' priorities.



In a robust Q&A session after Mr Haripersad's presentation, the audience requested clearer guidelines from the government regarding the process of establishing partnerships with the government. In particular, the need for clarity on the steps to be taken from the initial submission of proposal to programme implementation was raised. There was a shared concern



from the audience at the opportunity costs of a lack of direction in how to go about undertaking proposals, and in delays or inconsistent feedback from government officials.

The presentation and follow-up conversation highlighted the importance of consultation among NASCEE's members and the WCED in creating clearer understanding of how we can support each other in working to strengthen the education system to the benefit of all children in South Africa. We are grateful to the WCED and to Wesgro, who provided the venue, for their openness to engaging with NASCEE and our members, and we look forward to building these relationships further in 2025.

