

## MEDIA STATEMENT

RELEASED ON 8 AUGUST 2025

EMBARGO: NONE

### REGULATIONS ON BELA

The SAOU welcomes the draft regulations on the amendments to the South African Schools' Act by Minister Siviwe Gwarube and is currently working on the analysis of these draft regulations.

The SAOU is comparing the inputs made on these draft regulations in various forums in order to formulate a comprehensive response to the regulations.

It is encouraging that the two pressing issues: Learner Admission to Public Schools and the Norms and Standards for the capacity of Public Schools are addressed first. This brings a level of stability to the education system by providing clarity on these key concerns.

The SAOU is especially satisfied that the draft regulations reflect the criteria set by the Court order obtained by the SAOU in October 2023 in terms of establishing the capacity of schools. The establishing of norms and standards to regulate the capacity of schools is critical for quality learning and teaching to take place. The SAOU has repeatedly lamented the fact that overcrowding in schools is leading to the diminishing welfare of teachers and also to the increase of disciplinary problems which are not in the interest of the learners.

It is, however, not only the promulgation of policy which guides the system. The SAOU will be vigilant in guarding the process of implementation of regulations to ensure that provincial and district officials adhere to the regulations.

It is disturbing that these draft regulations were released for public comment after the admission processes of provinces had already started, and that these regulations will not be implemented until the 2027 admission cycle begins.

The SAOU will comment formally on the draft regulations at a later stage.