



Report on Sangari SA Orientation - Gauteng March 2012

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1 Introduction and Background

The e-learning Directorate at the Gauteng Department of Education procured nine Sangari SA iBoxes for underperforming schools in Johannesburg Central, Sedibeng West and Ekurhuleni South Districts. The provision of iBoxes is in accordance with the 2014 Strategic Plan and the e-Learning Strategic Goal to “Move ICTs into the classroom”.

The selected schools are from a list of schools deemed to be underperforming due to pass percentages being below 40% in the Accounting, Mathematics, Physical Sciences and English First Additional Language subject areas. The presence of iBoxes with content in Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Life Sciences was intended to provide these schools with additional materials to support learning in those primary subjects but also to allow teachers and learners to experience innovative technologies within the school environment.

2 Description of the Training

The training was attended by 18 school representatives, four officials from Johannesburg Central, one from Sedibeng and three from GDE Head Office. Training was held at the Johannesburg Central Head office in Soweto.

Ms Duduzile Sibisi, Project Manager at GDE opened the workshop with a presentation about the procurement of iBoxes and how it aligned with the Gauteng Department of Education strategic plan for improved support and learning, particularly in the selected underperforming schools. It was highlighted that the iBoxes were a privilege as only nine schools out of the entire province were to benefit from this programme. It was therefore important for schools to maximize their use for teaching and learning or risk losing the resource.

The Sangari technical team was delayed and SchoolNet SA’s Operations Manager, Ms Omashani Naidoo started the orientation of the iBoxes with a discussion around representatives expectations. The handover of the devices to principals was moved forward to allow participants to have first-hand experience of the device. Requisition forms took a while to complete but school representatives were eager to “play” with the iBoxes and hence made quick work of the required documentation.

The school representatives used the iBox manual to connect the iBox and were guided by Sangari SA’s E-Learning IT Specialist, Mr Zarko Damjanac when challenges were experienced. Principals were encouraged to work through the different subject content and lessons that were pre-loaded onto the iBox.

3 Lessons learnt from this training

A three hour orientation is a very short time frame for information sharing or any semblance of training. Due to this time constraint, “training” thus needs to start timeously and focus on a few key areas. Orientation “training” should not just be a handover ceremony but rather designed opportunities for participants to experience the device. Thereby, sufficient excitement around how the device can be integrated into teaching and learning activities within the school environment can be generated. . The key focus should be on how the iBox is going to assist schools and teachers to teach in a more engaged manner. Focusing on the device alone and how to connect it will not achieve this.

4 Recommendations

An **Antivirus** programme should be downloaded and set to automatically update when connected to the Internet. The schools must then be asked to update the anti-virus at least once a week. If this is not pre-installed then this must be done during training and access to the internet must then become compulsory at the venue

Warranty of the ibox needs to be included in the manual along with contact details should teachers need to contact Sangari. My suggestion would be to create frequently asked Questions where the comments and questions captured from training are included for easy reference.

Sangari SA needs to explore **wireless enabled** iboxes. Schools are increasingly looking at wireless connectivity and having a portable device connecting wirelessly would be wonderful in a few months.

All iboxes need to be **quality tested and checked** before being packed for delivery. A checklist of hardware as well as software should be used for this purpose.

Time keeping is important. The facilitator must be there at least 30 minutes before the start of the training. This creates an air of preparedness and professionalism. Sangari SA **training** needs to be re-conceptualised to include strategies on how the iBox can support teachers in using engaging strategies to teach. A few scenarios or tasks should be designed to depict the usefulness of the device for teaching and learning.

5 Conclusion

All participants thoroughly enjoyed their interaction with the IBox and were able to successfully see how the device would assist schools and teachers in the absence of resources. It was also evident that principals were eager to go back to their schools and showcase to their teachers the power of the iBox. The training was a huge success and will improve as more sustained support is provided.

Omeshani Naidoo
Operations Manager
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6 **Annexure 1: List of Participants**

District	Name of School	School Representatives	Designation
Ekurhuleni South	OR Tambo Secondary School	MM Sebela	HOD
		Ntuli Sebela	Educator
JHB Central	Mapetla Secondary School	Nelson Ramoshaba	Principal
		Lekoa Mpotseng	Educator
JHB Central	Naledi Secondary School	Nhlanhla Hlatshwayo	Educator
		Raymond Matlala	Deputy Principal
JHB Central	Nghunghunyani Comprehensive School	Oliver Shivanda	Principal
		Nkateko Nkuna	IT Tech Support
JHB Central	Senaoane Secondary School	SL Mashungu	Principal
		BZ Nhlapo	ICT Coordinator
Sedibeng West	Bophelong Secondary School	Nozililo Phuphuma	Educator
		Prudence Mine	Educator
Sedibeng West	Botebo-Tsebo Secondary School	Ragetsi Tokelo	Educator
		Langa Ndaba	Principal
Sedibeng West	Mahareng Secondary School	Andrew Letlhake	Deputy Principal
		Hicksonia Mzotho	Administrator
Sedibeng West	Moshate Secondary School	Malindi Amanda	HOD
		Mokgatsane D Mokhema	Principal