Seven critical facts about the education system that will shape the future of the South African economy and society

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1. We have a stable crisis in education which remains unresolved because of political denial and the problem of averages.

- The schools work for about 1/3 of our children.
- The performance of the good schools masks the systemic crisis.
- The international and comparative tests of achievement do not lie.
2. With every year that goes by the greater becomes the educational and social inequalities between our two school systems.

Skilled employment (Stats SA, September 2014):

- Whites 42% (1994) to 61.5% (2014)
- Indians 50.7%
- Coloureds 22.5%
- Africans 17.9%
3. The mistake SAG has made is to try to resolve the crisis through reforms that do not address the core of the problem.

OBE, OBE-R, WSE, IQMS, CAPS
4. The most serious dimension of this crisis is the institutionalisation of low standards and low expectations in the school system

- “Really, as a teacher myself, 30% for a slow learner is fine” (Minister Basic Education, 2012)
- “When we say 30% it means that person has been able to master the basic skills” (Minister Basic Education, 2012)
- Automatic promotion in senior grades (10-12) after one failing one of those grades
5. The resolution of the crisis does not require more resources but the more efficient use of existing resources

The story of Mbilwi, South Africa’s consistently performing top mathematics and science school
6. The large-scale turnaround of SA schools is not going to happen for the foreseeable future

- Large-scale reform of schools can only happen through governmental leadership
- The many political obstacles to school change require government intervention
7. The turnaround of schools will be small-scale, regional and dependent on citizen/non-government/business initiatives

- Simply *more* education is not enough
- Cramming is not education (holiday camps)
- Put the basics in place first
Thank You