

FREE STATE SPENDS R10BN ON EDUCATION

23 Mar 2012 | Michael Tlhakudi |

THE Free State department of education is set to build three schools during this financial year.

In our attempt to raise the bar and leave no child behind, we will continue to offer internships, learnerships and bursaries to young people in the critical skills such as engineering, environmental sciences, and information technology and medicine

This was said by MEC for education Tate Makgoe yesterday during his budget vote in Tseki, QwaQwa, in Free State.

The department has set aside R10.04-billion to improve the quality of education in the province this year.

Makgoe said his department was seeking to combat overcrowding, particularly in rural school.

He said three new schools would be built in Bothaville, Parys and Bloemfontein.

He also indicated that they would reconstruct about six schools and add classes to a number of schools in and around the province.

He said though the province recorded a significant improvement in last year's matric results, rural schools remained their key priorities.

Makgoe said about 192 rural schools with limited learning resources would be supported with seven mobile libraries that would reach about 35000 pupils.

Also 300 out-of-school youth will be recruited and used as teacher assistants in farm schools.

"Of the 22 farm school hostels that accommodated about 2500 pupils, we upgraded a number of hostels throughout the province, among these we renovated Tseki, Manthisi, Seotlong and Sekgutlong in QwaQwa," Makgoe said.

"We also have provided water and sanitation as well as electricity to 83 farm schools in 2011-12."

He indicated that they were happy with bursary provision for the pupils in the Free State.

"We have set aside close to R150-million for bursaries this year alone. About 1500 students are set to benefit from this programme," he said.

"In our attempt to raise the bar and leave no child behind, we will continue to offer internships, learnerships and bursaries to young people in the critical skills such as engineering, environmental sciences, and information technology and medicine."

Earlier this month Free State Premier Ace Magashule said 200 students would be sent to Cuba to do medicine.

Makgoe's budget comes at a time when South Africa's economy was showing signs of shrugging off the global economic crisis, with the country's economic growth marked by a Gross Domestic Product increase of 3.7%.

[Source: www.sowetanlive.co.za]