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MEC DEFENDS STANDARD OF EDUCATION



PROUD OF EDUCATION: Education MEC Tate Makgoe is adamant that the education standard in the country is of a satisfactory level, as compared to the rest of the world.

No one should be worried about the state of education and the standard thereof because the education in the country is of international standards, said provincial education MEC Tate Makgoe on Tuesday while responding to opposition parties' comments.

He was speaking during the legislature debate on Premier Ace Magashule's state of the province address.

Makgoe said he wanted to set the record straight for those who still believed that there were problems with the standard of education in the country, telling the sitting that the education received by South African pupils was of international standards.

He cited a few institutes that the national Department of Education had used to benchmark the standard of education in the country, including the independent education standards authority, Umalusi.

Makgoe said: "The world is happy that we are doing well but some people with few votes want to tell us that we are not.

"I want to put a challenge to the members (of the legislature) to sit down and write the matric exam papers that our children write and then come back and talk about education.

"Anyone who still has a child in school will attest that the education in this country is internationally benchmarked."

Makgoe said the opposition parties were critical to the state of education only because the education landscape in the country had changed. Unlike in the past, where only model C schools received a 100% matric pass rate, Makgoe said black schools were starting to also reach that terrain with 12 schools achieving this in the 2012 results.

“The problem is not the education, it is that a black child and a white child are writing the same paper whether they live in rural or urban areas, and even the IEB papers are moderated on the same scale by the same people,” Makgoe said.

The MEC said this was despite black children in rural schools being under-resourced.

He said South Africa was recognised as the only country among developing countries that had improved access to education.

“You should know that in South Africa 98% of children who are supposed to be in school are in school, so things have changed.

“Access to education was denied by law, but that picture has changed,” Makgoe said.

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