

EDUCATION DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET VOTE 2019/20

DR. PHI MAKGOE
MEC for Education

**FOURTH RAADSAAL
BLOEMFONTEIN**
16 JULY 2019



education
Department of
Education
FREE STATE PROVINCE

www.fs.gov.za



Free State Department of Education Budget Vote Speech, 2019/2020

Delivered by the Honourable MEC Tate Makgoe

Fourth Raadsaal, Bloemfontein

16 July 2019

Madam Speaker

Honourable Premier

Members of the Executive Council

Members of the Provincial Legislature

Organized Labour

Our Partners

Principals, Teachers

Learners

School Governing Bodies

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Madam Speaker, thank you for the 2019/20 Debate on Vote 6 – Department of Education, which is delivered and debated two months after the momentous 2019 national and provincial elections.

During this elections, the people of South Africa gave the African National Congress (ANC) a strong mandate to continue working with them to grow South Africa together.

The election results demonstrated the confidence that the people of South Africa have in the ANC, led by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

But they are yearning for the speedy implementation of the ANC Manifesto – a coherent and a bold people’s plan for a better life for all, tackling the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequalities.



The engagements with our people during the election campaign and independent research illustrated that Education is still amongst the Top 10 priorities for our people.

This requires all the stakeholders in education to put their hands on deck and reassure our people that they were correct to once again trust us with leading them.

Our people has added a tagline to our call to 'Thuma Mina', they are also saying 'Khawuleza ANC' Move Faster!!! We have listened.

In her State of the Province Address (SOPA), on 2 July 2019, the Honorable Ntombela, Premier of the Free State asked us all to reimagine and "Build the Free State We Want". A province of our dreams.

Our history demand that we should improve the education system and develop skills that we need now and into the future.

In the words of American writer, Alvin Toffler, **"The Illiterate of the 21 century will not be those who cannot read and write but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn."**

Madam Speaker, the 2019/2020 Budget Speech represents the continuity of our intention to close the gap of inequalities in education and also to improve learning outcomes in our schools.

Today, I stand before you to proclaim boldly that our basic education system in the province is firmly on the rise. We are doing our utmost to ensure that we continue the trajectory of educational improvement we have seen in the fourth and fifth administrations.

BUDGET FOR 2019/20

Madam Speaker, the overall 2019/20 MTEF budget allocation for the Free State Department of Education is R14.733 billion.

In the previous financial year, our allocation was R13.623 billion.

This is an increase of R1.110 billion, which represents an 8.49% growth.

Madam Speaker, the breakdown of the budget by the Free State Department of Education per Programmes is as follows:

- The allocation for Administration increased by 4 % from last year allocation to about R 1 030 billion.



- Public ordinary School Education receives R11. 428 billion compared to R10.555 billion in 2018/19 financial year which is an increase of 8.2%.
- The allocation of Independent Schools decrease with 8% to R94.262 million.
- Public Special School Education is allocated R 591.242 million which represent an increase of 17.7 % from 2018/19 financial Year.
- Early Childhood Development (ECD) is allocated R164. 905 million, an increase of 16.5%% in 2019/20 financial year.
- Infrastructure development is allocated R849, 863 million, which equate to 5, 96% of the total departmental budget.
- The allocation for Examination and Education Services is increased by 12.8% % from last year's allocation to R573.464 million.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Madam Speaker, School Safety has become one of the hottest topics in our education ecosystem. Violence and crime, unbecoming social behaviour and ill-discipline has become a common feature at our schools.

Gangsterism, drug and substance abuse are terrorising lives of many learners. Theft and vandalism of our assets and infrastructure is a continuing threat to the stability and sustenance of the future of our education system.

Unlawful use and application of corporal punishment and other forms of violence between our teachers and learners as well as parents is a challenge that is gripping our school community.

Unsafe infrastructure at our schools also poses a daily risk to our educators and learners.

Madam Speaker, the recent Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS) indicates that one of the main concerns of our teachers is their safety and that of their learners whilst they are at school.

In 2018, the implementation of the Protocol between SAPS and the Free State Department of education continued with challenges of schools not having Schools Safety Plans and functional school safety committees.



To address the above challenges:

- We initiated the verification of all the schools to update linking of schools with local police stations using the news SAPS form. A database with details of adopt-a-Cop and the Cluster Police Stations and the profile of each school have been developed and shared with SAPS.
- Together with our stakeholders, we have decided to hold hands and stand against the scourge of violence and crime engulfing our schools. The Provincial School Safety Summit with all our social partners which took place in February resolved to make our schools safe havens for teaching and learning.
- Subsequent to the summit, we have established a Provincial School Safety Steering Committee, a collaborative structure that comprises of the South African Police Service, Departments of Justice and Correctional Services, Health and Social Development, teacher unions, School Governing Body (SGB) structures, Provincial School Governing Body Council, Provincial Principals Council and Community-Based-Organizations such as Peter Swartz Foundation, Higher Education Institutions and the Free State Liquor and Gambling Board. This structure will advise the department on strategies towards eradicating and combating school violence and ill-discipline at our schools and transform them to be centres of community life.
- Together with the Department of Police, Roads and Transport we have placed School Safety Patrollers through EPWP grant at 38 schools across the Province. Although this is not to undermine the appointment of security guards as raised by SGBs during the meetings held in April to May 2019, our attempts is to bring back the school guards at all our schools in an incremental manner based on our budget considerations. This will greatly improve physical security at all our schools especially our hot spot schools.

Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to reassure our principals, educators, learners and school governing bodies that we have heard them during my recent Roadshows about their concerns regarding issues of burglaries, crime and violence at our schools.

We are appealing to our communities to join us to make our schools safe and protect them from being vandalised and robbed by criminals.



The battle against school violence, crime, gangsterism, drug and substance abuse is a collective social responsibility. We are calling our people from the length and breadth of our Province to fight against crime and school violence and declare our schools violence and crime free.

Re tshwanetse re eme ka maoto re le baetapele ba setjhaba, re le batswadi, re le matitjhere le bana re re ho lekane, enough is enough, our schools can no longer be captured by criminal and drug syndicates who are hell-bent on destroying the future of our country.

During this financial year our interventions will include:

- Last week, together with Honourable Sam Mashinini, MEC for Police, Roads and Transport we embarked on an unannounced legally compliant search and seizures at our schools. We carried out this operation at the following schools: Grassland Secondary School, Petunia High School, Bainsvlei Comprehensive Combined School, Navalsig High School, Kaelang High and Academic of Excellence School – all of them in Bloemfontein. Drugs and dangerous weapons such as knives were uncovered in some of these schools. We thank the Department of Police Roads and Transport, and in particular the Sniffing Dog Unit for their participation in the School Safety Campaign.
- We will continue training stakeholders on the National School Safety Framework – a guide to whole school wide approach to combating school violence. Between May and June 2019, we have already trained all the Circuit Managers throughout the province. We will be rolling out this training to SMTs, educators, the Adopt-A-Cop and SGBs.
- Through the direct learner support development strategy, vulnerable and learners at risk will be identified and supported in some of our education circuits especially those where there is a correlation of poor learner discipline and poor education outcomes. In most instances this will be done jointly with SAPS, Department of Social Development, Health, NGOs and other key role players for joint operations on anti-crime awareness campaigns per district targeting 3 000 Grades 7 and 8 learners who are more vulnerable due to peer pressure that is facing them.



- Considering that the issue of school safety is now becoming a serious priority, we are going to look into our human and budget capacity at both district and provincial level. We are also going to audit all our school infrastructure to ensure that we eliminate all the unsafe structures and buildings that might be hazardous to our educators and learners.

Madam Speaker, in his maiden State of the Nation Address (SONA), President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the migration of Early Childhood Development (ECD) from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Basic Education.

Migration of ECD to the department of Education must be understood within the principles of **Access** to early learning and stimulation as well as **Quality** guided teaching and resources.

Provincially, a task team comprising of officials from the Department of Education, Social Development, Home Affairs and the Department of Health, has been established to advice on the smooth function shift to us.

An amount of R1 057 million has been set aside in the 2019/20 financial year to train 1 218 practitioners on the National Curriculum Framework for Early Childhood Development for 0 – 4 year olds.

Additionally, 100 Pre-Grade R, practitioners will be trained on NQF level 4.

Through the 'Educate Your Child' project which will be implemented this year, we intend to encourage parents to prepare their children for formal schooling.

Madam Speaker, we have made great strides towards the universalisation of Grade R in the system. A total of 1 519 Grade R classes have been established in Ordinary Public and Independent Schools as well as 263 in Community-Based sites.

This has given access to 48 462 grade R learners in the province.

Madam Speaker, in this financial year, 1 288 Grade R teachers will be trained on subject content knowledge for Grade R as well teaching reading and writing skills to ensure language acquisition begins at a lower level.

Additionally, in partnership with the Rodger Federer Foundation we will be training 240 Grade R teachers on School Readiness utilising ICT tablets for learners and teachers. This process will be rolled out in three years.



Currently, 79, Grade R practitioners are in their second year of study towards a National Diploma in Grade R Teaching. They will soon join 233 qualified Grade R practitioners in the system.

Finally, 226 Schools will be introduced to Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) so as to provide appropriate support to learners to improve their skills in reading for meaning.

PROVINCIAL STRATEGY ON LEARNER ATTAINMENT (PSLA)

Madam speaker, our **Primary Schools Turnaround Strategy** is underpinned by building strong foundational skills in literacy and numeracy. These are fundamental skills needed for a productive and meaningful life as a global citizen. The strategy will be realized by:

- Focusing on building a strong leadership at a school and district levels by training schools SMTs and Subject Advisors to monitor the quality of teaching and learning.
- Plans are afoot to reduce learner-teacher ratio in the next three years in Primary Schools.
- Intensify moderation of SBA tasks at all levels across all the grades.
- Institutionalise item and error analysis to deal with topics that are challenging and problematic.
- Provisioning of resources such as Maths kits, Robotics kits and National Science Mobile Laboratories for 75 Primary Schools. For the first time we will also provide Primary Schools with recorded IBP DVDs containing maths, science and EFAL lessons for grade 3-6.
- 'Maths for All Campaign' which was launched in 2011 to raise awareness and stimulate interest in Maths in Secondary Schools will now focus on Primary Schools targeting grade 7s,
- Conducting quarterly accountability sessions.
- Conduct quarterly gear-up sessions per grade per school per subject.



Madam Speaker, we have made a commitment to deal with the poor quality of the learning outcomes which manifests itself through the **high drop-out rate across all the grades**.

As of September 2019, we will be introducing assessment frames in selected subjects in grade, 4 - 6, 8, 10 and 11.

The aim with these assessment frames is to ensure that learners who are progressing from grade to grade have acquired the expected skills and knowledge in each subject which is the primary purpose of any curriculum.

For grade 7 and 9, the assessment frames will be developed by the appointed examiners.

These assessment frames will guide teachers, learners, parents and our partners on the type of skills to be assessed during the entire year.

- We have already started to pilot the moderation of SBA tasks in grade 8 and 9 at the cluster level in March and the next round will be in August.
- Equally we have intensified curriculum gear up sessions to monitor work done per term, per subject, per school, before they participate in the examinations.
- We want is to ensure that quarterly examinations comply with principles of assessment which are **fairness, validity, reliability and consistency**.
- In 2019 we plan to pilot grade10-12 District Moderations of schools whose SBA marks were rejected by Umalusi in Motheo and Lejweleputswa District.

SCHOOLS OF SPECIALISATIONS

Madam Speaker, our in-depth analysis of the 2018 NSC results in terms of subject streams for career pathing and to inform our future plans to build schools of specialization revealed that:

In the **Commercial subjects**, the Province is performing well. Economics used to be our challenging subject in this stream. However, our partnership with the South African Reserve Bank and Provincial Treasury saw the subject continue it's upwards trend. Through our partnership with the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) we will continue to support Accounting learners to become Chattered Accounts and other Accounting related career.

Arts subjects are of vital significance when combined with Science, Technology, and Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects as they give learners a competitive urge in the future. We note with appreciation an increase in the number of learners who are doing Dramatic Arts compared to other arts subjects. Over the **years performance in our Arts subjects has been impressive.**

In the **next two years**, we will increase the number of schools offering Arts subjects in the townships. Currently, only three township schools offer these subjects – they are **Teto Secondary School in Welkom** and **Letsete Secondary School** also in Welkom and **Reamohestse Secondary School** in Botshabelo. At Reamohestse Secondary School, we have already started with planning of building four studios – (Music studio, Drama Studio, Design & Craft studio and Dance studio). **Our main objective is to develop career path ways that will boost the creative arts economy.**

The **Service subjects** are doing equally well. We noted an increase in the number of learners offering Tourism in this stream. We appreciate the support received from the Department of Tourism pertaining to Teacher Development Programs which contributed to our steady performance. The partnership exposes our learners to the National Tourism Career Expo (NTCE) to instill a love for the tourism sector.

Renovations to convert Lourier Park Primary School into a school of Autism is at procurement phase. The school will operational during the second half of 2020.

Focus on Maths and Science

As a Province, our performance in **Mathematics and Science subjects continued to improve.**

Our biggest challenges are participation rate and the number of distinctions in these subjects. In dealing directly with these challenges, we will proceed with the implementation of the following programmes:

- Dinaledi and Dinaletsana Maths and Science Vacation Programme targeting grade 8 – 12 learners,
- Annual Mathematics Competition in grade 8 – 11, together with the Eskom Foundation to instill passion of this subject,

- The OR Tambo Maths and Science Centre in QwaQwa supporting grade 10 – 12 learners in partnership with Investec, CHIETA and Kutlwanong Centre for Maths, Science and Technology,
- Provincial Science Competition for grade 10, targeting all learners,
- ETDP SETA Mathematics Project for grade 12 learners who are also offering Physical Sciences and Mathematics, that is, Mathematics becomes the anchor subject. This pilot project will benefit Lejweleputswa and Motheo District.

Madam Speaker, two grade 12 learners – Lebogang Seseane from Akademia in Brandfort and Ruben Venter from Grey College in Bloemfontein, will represent the country in the 51st International Chemistry Olympiad **(they are with us in this chamber)**. The duo will depart to Paris, France on 20 July to participate in the event from 21 to 30 July.

The other two learners in Grade 12, Johnny Muller from Wilgerivier Hoërskool and Baraka Masinde from Christian Brothers College (CBC), Bloemfontein came 1st and 2nd respectively and were selected to represent South Africa in the 30th International Life Sciences in Szeged, Hungary from 14 to 21 July.

Agricultural Schools

Madam Speaker, Free State **is an agricultural province**, and as such we need to increase the number of learners who are offering agricultural subjects.

There is a steady improvement pertaining to learner enrolment in these subjects.

Our learners continue to participate in the Bloem-Show and the Kroonstad Comprehensive Secondary School obtained position 2 despite competing with commercial farmers on the overall management of stock farming.

In partnership with the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, through the one household one hectare project, 5 Agricultural Schools received funding for infrastructural development and production, namely, Weiveld, Seotlong, Bovaal, Unicom and Hendrik Potgieter.



The land question is a very important discourse in our country today. Through our Agricultural schools we are planting a seed that will ensure that the national land reform programme is a success. Our role will be to produce future farmers and land owners through the provision of quality education.

STRENGTHENING THE TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL STREAM

Madam Speaker, in the **Technical Vocational Stream** we note an increase in the enrolment in Engineering Graphics and Design (EGD) in grade 10-12. Of the 27 Technical Vocational Schools 10 are specializing in Automotive.

Given the good performance track record, in the **next five years**, we plan to build a full **Aviation School and Automotive School** and thereafter at least schools of specialization in 10 circuits.

We will start by increasing the **number of workshops at the existing Technical Vocational and Occupational Schools**. In 2020, all grade 9 learners in Technical and Comprehensive schools will be introduced to a streamlined Technology Curriculum to create a pathway that will ensure their success in this stream.

We want to make the Technical Vocational stream vibrant, relevant and attractive to young boys and girls through the introduction of Provincial Competition.

In 2019, we have added three more Competitions in the Technical Vocational Stream to prepare our learners to contribute in the development of our economy in years to come. These are:

- Automotive Competition targeting grade 10 – 11 learners from 15 schools that are currently offering the subjects,
- Power System Competition (electrical wiring) targeting grade 10 – 11 from 12 schools offering the subjects',
- Civil Services (Plumbing) targeting grade 10 – 11 learners from 11 schools that are offering the subjects,
- The Welding Competition targeting grade 10-11 learners in 17 schools,
- In partnership with merSETA, 65 teachers will be trained in Engineering Graphics and Design (EGD),



- **In Xhariep District we are planning to start with the conversion of three existing schools one in each circuit into Technical Vocational Schools.**

A Provincial Policy regarding Health and Safety in our technical schools workshops will be finalized before the end of the year.

PROVINCIAL SKILLS HUB (SKILLS REVOLUTION)

Furthermore, the Provincial Technical Occupational Skills School will be established in Bloemfontein. The school will focus on five occupational skills training programs - Biomedical Equipment and Maintenance Technology, Air conditioning and Refrigeration Technology, Civil Construction, Metal Technology and Automotive Technology for light and heavy vehicles. It is for the above reason that in 2018 our Department sent 20 Educators to Sao Paulo Brazil for a Technical Skills Training Course. The new skills hub will cater for all the learners and in the District. Learner will attend on a rational basis from different schools for three years, Learners will be from Grade 8-9 and 10.

EXPOSING LEARNERS TO THE DIGITAL CURRICULUM (4th Industrial Revolution)

Madam Speaker, we made a commitment to people of the Free State that we are going to launch the Robotics League so that we are not left behind.

I am proud to announce that we have delivered on our promise to prepare our learners and teachers for the challenges of the 4th Industrial Revolution.

Most importantly, the Robotic League will cater for grade 7 – 9 learners as our strategy to reduce the high repetition- and high drop-out rate in the Senior Phase.

Madam Speaker, **10 Foundation Phase schools** will be introduced to digital Skills Curriculum, which will include Coding and Robotics which is a National Department Basic Education (DBE) pilot project. 30 teachers from these schools will be trained as of October 2019.

The Pilot schools per district are as follows:

- Nelson Mandela Primary School and Zamaleka Primary School in Fezile Dabi District,



- Embonisweni Primary School and Welkom Preparatory School in Lejweleputswa District,
- Brebner Primary School and St. Mary's Primary School in Motheo District
- Nexus Primary School and Qwabi Primary School in Thabo Mofutsanyane District,
- AJC Jooste Combined School and PT Sanders Combined School in Xhariep District.

We will continue with the **Mental Maths Competition grade 3-6, BAU Mathletics Competition in grade 4-7, Astronomy Quiz Competition grade 7 to support the digital curriculum.**

In partnership with the **DBE we will be piloting** the introduction of coding and Robotics in **110 grade 7 Primary schools**. This will be complimented by the provincial initiative of rolling-out coding and Robotics in grade 4-6 targeting 300 learners.

650 grade 8-11 learners and 27 teachers from 27 Technical Vocational Schools will be introduced to Coding, Programming and Robotics through the partnership project between the Department and merSETA for the next three years.

An additional **360 grade 8 and 9 learners** from 10 selected Secondary Schools will be introduced to Coding, Programming and Robotics through a partnership with CHIETA.

Last year, in partnership with Vodacom we have started '**Code Like A Girl**' programme in Motheo and Thabo Mofutsanyana District and it is in its second year now. This programme exposes teenage girls to computer programming and coding.

A departmental program for implementation of these digital curriculum, that is, Coding, Programming and Robotics will be shared with all participating schools as of August 2019.

We will host the Provincial Robotics Competition in December. The winners of grade 4-6 Robotic League will visit South Korea.

Madam Speaker, these initiatives on digital curriculum will lead into commencement for the preparations of establishing a Robotics Workshop in Tshiya District Teacher Development Centre in Qwa Qwa.

In response to the February 2019 SONA injunction of providing every learner with a tablet, the department in partnership with **Closed-loop Learner Network (CLN)** is piloting this initiative wherein grade 10-12 learners from 81 quintile 1-3 Secondary Schools are provided with a tablet containing all the subjects they are offering.

Each tablet is loaded with e-books of all subjects, pre-loaded video tutorials for Maths and Science and copies of Internet Broadcast Project (IBP) DVDs lessons.

In the 2019/20 financial year we will commence with the roll out of Digital Interactive white boards to replace the chalk boards.

READING AND LANGUAGES

- Reading for pleasure is an important skill for both personal development and advancement in life. We need to instil and inculcate a reading culture in all the community of the Free State.
- We plan to improve participation in activities that promote extra-mural reading and writing habits in the Primary Schools. These will be part of the Language Enrichment Activities which will include amongst others:
 - Spelling Bee, Debate, Poetry and Book Review – 300 Primary Schools
 - National and Internal Literacy Days – 100 primary schools
 - Pen Pals project – 28 primary schools
 - Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) – 100 primary schools
 - Volume 2 of the Cool Creative Kids' Collection – 35 primary schools
 - Reading Clubs – 50 primary schools
- From 2020, the Book Review Competitions will be conducted using the common readers and Spelling Bee Competitions will use the words from the common readers in addition to the National Department of Basic Education (DBE) word list.
- Drop all and Read (DAR) must be observed on every Wednesday morning for 40 minutes. Schools must incorporate DAR period in their timetables.



- In 2019, we will be piloting Reading for pleasure in 50 Primary Schools targeting grade 4-7 and 25 Secondary Schools targeting grade 8 and 9. Every child and their teachers will be provided with 5 different genres to read.
- We will host the 4th Heritage and Language Festival for grade 8–11 learners of English and African languages from 3 – 6 September. The festival focusses on debates; book reviews; speech contests. For grade 8 and 9, we will expand the scope of the Debate to include Home Language for the first time this year.
- We will provide 43 struggling Sesotho Secondary Schools and all the 383 English Home language Schools with a copy per school of Revision booklets with exercises.
- **The revitalization of Primary Schools Libraries project will be expanded to cover more schools in the Lejweleputswa District in this current financial year.**

Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) and Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)

Madam Speaker, as we present the 2019/20 budget vote, it is important to reflect on International Assessment Studies – The first one **Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS)** which reports on the performance of lower grades, specifically grades, 4, 5, 6 and 9

South Africa has again achieved significantly below other countries in this study.

In Grade 5, the top country achieved 565 points and South Africa 302; a difference of 263 points.

A decline in Afrikaans is equated to one year of schooling and English to half a year.

In Grade 4, the top country achieved 581 and South Africa, 320; a difference of 261 points, equated to 6 school years. There was a decline in the score, from 233 to 320, but no significant difference in achievement.



However, the Free State was the best performing province in Grade 5 with an average score of 483 and second best performing in Grade 4 with an average score of 347 in the country.

Honorable Members, our goal is to ensure that by end of 2024, 780 English First Additional Language (EFAL), all English Home Language (EHL) township and 590 African Home Language Schools will implement the Primary Schools Reading Improvement Methodologies.

The second international Assessment Study is **Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)** which **will** be administered in Grade 9 (Mathematics & Science) from 26 August to 13 September 2019.

About 32 schools have been sampled for the Free State. The Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), will be administering this study during that period, and be monitored by us.

In 2015, the Free State achieved 367 in Mathematics and 351 in Science.

This is an improvement in Grade 9 from 360 for Mathematics and 341 in Science respectively in 2011. As opposed to the provincial scores of 291 in Mathematics and 280 in Science in 2003.

This is an improvement of 76 points in Mathematics and 71 points in Science from 2003 to 2015 for these subjects. With appropriate provincial strategic interventions, the Free State is expected to achieve 402 in Mathematics in 2019.

In Grade 5, the province registered a score of 373 in Mathematics, only 3 points below the National average of 376.

This shows that the Province is performing parallel to National Standards. We are also looking forward to an improvement in the 2019 TIMSS in Mathematics.

Career Guidance and Entrepreneurship in Primary Schools

Madam Speaker, in this financial year we will embark on an awareness drive to stimulate interest of different careers and subject choices among Grade 7 learners. We will do this by:

- Strengthening the celebration of Career Simulation Day in schools during August.



- Distribute information of careers researched by learners who participated in the Careers Celebration at provincial level to all schools.

Entrepreneurship

In partnership with DBE we will be piloting for the second year the Employability and Entrepreneurship Education Programme (E³) in 40 schools in Lejweleputswa and 35 schools in Xhariep District

We will also host an **Entrepreneurship Competition** for Grade 7 learners to improve their financial literacy, economic and social skills. 100 learners will participate at district level with 30 to participate at provincial level.

Our commitment to build inclusive economy through career guidance and fostering entrepreneurship does not end in primary schools. We are planning to work together with private sector to place newly qualified graduates in the science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM) fields in employment opportunities.

EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE

NEW HOSTELS

Madam Speaker, in response to the challenges of multi-grade teaching in farm schools, we are continuing with our programme of building and upgrading boarding facilities to accommodate learners in proper hostels.

Accordingly, two hostels are under construction namely,

- Breda Farm Hostel in Fouriesburg
- Leboneng Special School Hostel in Welkom.

Before the end of this financial year, we will commence with the construction of Boitumelong Special School Hostel in Thaba Nchu.

ERADICATION OF PIT LATRINES

Madam Speaker, in order to continue to address compliance as per the regulations and to continue providing acceptable and healthy forms of sanitation, the department has committed to eradicate all the pit toilets in our schools.

Due to a lack of water and sewer lines in the affected areas, municipal services such as water and electricity are scarce and the department had to find an alternative form of sanitation.

The department has identified a total of 156 schools in the province with pit latrines most of which are farm schools. Farm schools constitute about 70% of this backlog.

We have developed a plan to eradicate these systems and replace it with normal waterborne sanitation that will decrease the number of accidents and health issues amongst the learners in these schools. Most of the schools are in farm areas and also in public ordinary schools in Qwa-Qwa and Thaba Nchu.

Of the 156 schools in this programme, 73 schools are at different construction stages while 83 are at procurement stage.

This project has yielded construction opportunities to 18 youth companies to the value of R 11 985 million and 16 woman-owned-companies to the value of R 12 063 Million.

UPGRADES, ADDITIONS & RENOVATIONS

Madam Speaker, in the 2019/20 financial year R336. 092 million has been set aside for upgrading and refurbishment of schools, throughout the province.

Schools will also receive facilities such as additional classrooms, administration blocks, nutrition centres/kitchens, media centres, laboratories and fencing.

This interventions will go a long way in improving learning and teaching environment in our schools.



SPORTS ARTS AND CULTURE

We are going to ensure there is a mass participation in sports, arts and culture by all our schools. We are going to implement the following programs in our schools in this financial year:

- The future Olympians Programs on football and netball which will be expanded later to include other sporting codes.
- We are also going to have a Provincial schools music and arts festival.
- We have enlisted the professional services of the UFS for the writing of a book about the 12 Disciples of Mandela in a quest to contribute towards the Decolonization of curriculum.

It is our considered view that the involvement of learners in sports and cultural activities will create a cultural and sports tourism economy and boost our provincial economy.

CONCLUSION

Madam Speaker, I want to end this presentation by inviting all education stakeholders to join hands with government and move faster in this Thuma Mina crusade.

Education is a societal issue and the involvement of various stakeholders, especially parents in education is vital to the overall success in the lives of our children.

We are therefore making an earnest appeal to parents, community members and other strategic stakeholders to show up and be counted.

Madam Speaker, it is telling that we are presenting this 2019/20 budget vote two days before we mark the 10th anniversary of Nelson Mandela annual commemorations.

South African and international community remain inspired by Mandela's dedication to the struggle against Apartheid.

As per the annual practice, we will ensure that our officials take action, inspire change and spend 67 minutes of their time to support socio-economic development initiative.



Madam Speaker, as I conclude I want to thank the following institutions and individuals:

- To the ANC for making education an Apex priority,
- To my colleagues in the Executive Council for their support,
- To members of the education portfolio committee for always keeping us on our toes,
- To all the SGBs, QLTC structures, principals, SMTs and teachers in our province who, despite daunting challenges, prioritize the future of our children above all else. Through the support of our private sector partners we will continue to award outstanding teachers and learners through annual the Provincial National Teaching Awards (NTA) and Matric Well Done! Function.
- To the Free State Department of Education officials under the leadership of HOD Advocate Tsoarelo Malakoane for their tremendous hard work and dedication,
- To all of you in the House for your ongoing hard-work in ensuring that education is and always will be a societal priority,
- To our corporate partners, NGOs, CBOs, municipalities, provincial departments, universities and religious organizations for supporting and investing in education in the province. The Co-Funding Model with Kagiso Shanduka Trust on the Whole School Development Programme in Fezile Dabi and Motheo Districts as well as Kagiso Trust on Infrastructure Development Programme will continue until 2020/2021.
- Last but not least, I would like to thank my wife Ivy, my eldest daughter Palesa, my daughter Maki, and my son Junior for their loving support throughout my career and,
- Comrades, colleagues, and friends, this province is at the forefront of getting education right. We are indeed on the rise. The ANC in the province is getting education right.
- Madam Speaker, Honorable Members, ladies and gentlemen, I Thank you.



COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Tel: (051) 404 8104/8314

Physical Address:

55 Meriam Makeba Street, Fidel Castro Building
Bloemfontein, 9300

Postal Address:

Private Bag X29565, Bloemfontein, 9300
South Africa

'Raising the bar, closing the gap
& supporting Learners in all grades'

