



education

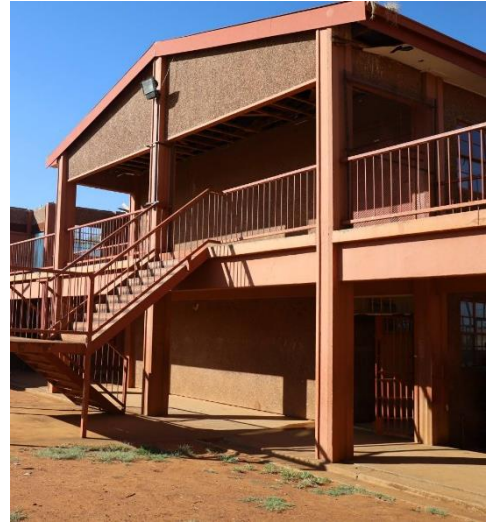
Department:
Education
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

BUDGET SPEECH 2024/25



"LET'S GROW
NORTH WEST TOGETHER"

NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 2024/2025 BUDGET VOTE



**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 2024/2025 BUDGET VOTE SPEECH DELIVERED
BY MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MRS NTSETSAO VIOLA MOTSUMI (MPL)
AT THE NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE ON 30 JULY 2024**

“A budget to Improve on our Achievements”

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Desbo Mohono;

Deputy Speaker, Honourable Tshepo Khoza;

Honourable Premier, Honourable Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi;

Chief Whip, Honourable Motlalepule Rosho

Honourable Members of the Executive Council;

Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature;

Honourable Members of Parliament here present;

Executive Mayors, Mayors and Speakers of Municipalities here present;

Modulasetilo wa ntlo ya Dikgosi, Kgosi Ofentse Thari Maotwe II;

Dikgosi tsa rona tse di tlotlegang;

Provincial Chairperson of the African National Congress, Cde Dumile Nono Maloyi;

Leaders of political parties;

Leaders of faith-based organisations;

Leaders of trade unions and other civil society organisations;

Members of the media;

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Bagaetsho, dumelang on this special penultimate day of the Mandela Month.

Honourable Speaker, I wish to premise this budget vote on one of the famous quotes of Tata Madiba that reads as,

“After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I can rest only for a moment, for with freedom come responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not yet ended.”

I deliberately chose this quote because through it, the founding father of our democracy and a global icon of peace, justice and reconciliation, President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela encourages us to have a mind-set of continuous growth and improvement, particularly in the face of trials and tribulations that will oftentimes stand in our way.

Guided by these words, we need to constantly remind ourselves to be both humble and resolute, understanding that success is not the end of the journey but the beginning of new challenges and aspirations that call for a continuous process of striving for improvement, learning and adaptation.

The point here, Honourable Speaker, is that as we celebrate our victories, we must also recognise that these triumphs are part of a larger, ever-evolving journey that requires persistent effort and unwavering determination.

Honourable Speaker, on 23 May last year, I appeared before this august House to present the 2023/24 budget priorities of the Department of Education, which were aligned to the corresponding Annual Performance Plan. I assured the people of North West Province that I will preside over the implementation and ultimate realisation of the commitments we made as a department.

So, as I stand with a great sense of privilege and purpose before this House to table the 2024/25 budget vote for Education today, allow me to account to the people of North West by first taking stock of our achievements and shortcomings for the previous financial year.

In the interest of time, I will briefly focus on the following flagship programmes of the department: examinations, curriculum implementation, infrastructure development and Human Resource Management and Early Childhood Development Programme.

A detailed report regarding progress made in the implementation of the 2023/24 budget speech pronouncements and the Revised Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) 2019-2024 priorities of the basic education sector is aptly captured in the 2023/24 Annual Performance Report, which is currently being audited.

I wish to enjoin the Honourable Members and the People of North West to go through the above document as soon as it is published.

Allow me to begin, Honourable Speaker, with the 2023 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination results.

Honourable Speaker, it is generally accepted that the success of any education system across the globe can be measured through diverse indicators, including academic achievements of the learners.

Through our deliberate systemic efforts, our matric class of 2023 achieved position four (4) in the country, with a stunning 81,63% pass rate, which represents an improvement by 1.83% to 79.8% of 2022.

Another spectacular achievement in these results was the increase in the number of candidates who passed with Bachelors from 33,62% of 2022 to 36,36% in 2023.

Our NSC examination results target for this year is over 90% pass rate and a spot in top three (3) performing provincial education departments in the country.

Although our attempts to improve the learner pass rate are seemingly overwhelming, but realising our target is not impossible.

We draw our hopes and aspirations from the incredible dedication of our district directors, circuit managers, subject advisors, principals, school management teams, teachers, school-based support staff and our school governing bodies.

Taking into account the instructional leadership role of the school principals, we have provided cell phones - with airtime and data bundles - to principals of all public schools.

We further provided circuit managers and subject advisors with the necessary tools of the trade, namely, cell phones, laptops and pool cars to enable them to support our schools on regular basis.

Ladies and gentlemen, it will be remiss of me not to also appreciate the sector labour unions for their role in maintaining labour peace, which should be counted among the significant factors that made it possible for us to improve our matric results last year.

And yet despite this progress, the reality that we must confront is that there are communities in our province who still resort to an old-fashioned strategy of disrupting schooling when they embark on service delivery protests.

Majority of the community uprisings involve acts of vandalism to school property and/or using our learners, particularly during examination times, as bargaining chips for the demands, which have nothing to do with the Department of Education.

This is one classical example of the hills that Tata Madiba warns us about in his quote above.

Honourable Speaker, here I wish to implore all leaders in government, the leaders of various tribal authorities and of different religions to take it upon themselves to educate our communities about the value of education to our nation as one of their basic human rights, which is carefully protected by the Constitution of our democratic country.

Through your permission, Honourable Speaker, allow me to strongly rebuke the organisers of such sordid deeds by quoting the words of Thomas Sankara when I say, *“We are not against progress, but we do not want progress that is anarchic and criminally neglects the rights of others”*.

Honourable Speaker, our journey towards continuous improvement of learning outcomes from Grades 1-12 is underpinned by the adoption of dynamic intervention strategies, which will go a long way in benefiting the province in years to come.

Cognisant of the corporate social responsibilities of the mining Houses and business communities towards the development of education in our province, we have established symbiotic public-private partnerships with, to mention but a few in no particular order, Impala Platinum Ltd, Siyanda Bakgatla Platinum Mine (Pty) Ltd, Royal Bafokeng Institute, Anglo American Platinum, Harmony Gold Mining Company, MTN Foundation, Vodacom, Standard Bank, Marakanelo Travel Tourism Events (PTY) LTD, SAICA, Universities, NECT, UNICEF, SASOL, Go-Maths, Macmillan, Oxford, Cambridge, and Platinum Publishers.

In an act that is unprecedented in our department, on 29 April 2024, we held the Inaugural Education Lekgotla on Curriculum and Infrastructure at Sun City.

The department noted with appreciation the commitment and great enthusiasm with which representatives of the above entities who attended the Lekgotla pledged their on-going support in the form of, among others, donations, teacher development and conducting extra classes in the pursuit of improving learning outcomes in our schools.

We are beginning to reap the benefits of that Lekgotla.

Honourable Members, we are proud to announce that Vodacom has already committed to deliver a donation of four hundred and six (406) laptops, loaded with e-School application, meant for all subject advisors in the province.

These laptops will be allocated to subject advisors during the month of September 2024.

As education, we are determined to pursue every action that contributes to sustainable improvement of the quality of education provided in our schools, and to remove any obstacle that stands in the way of our journey to improve learning outcomes.

We will continue to pursue our tried and tested Learner Attainment Improvement Programme (LAIP), which provides for a variety of carefully designed Grade 12 learner support or intervention strategies.

This work has already begun.

Furthermore, in the pursuit of bridging the digital divide, we provided all our public schools with broadband internet connection and 300GB of data bundle on monthly basis.

We have since put in place efforts to ensure that our learners and educators are geared to deal with the Fourth Industrial Revolution to keep them abreast of the latest developments in the changing world of technology.

Last year, we piloted Coding and Robotics in various GET phases in 185 schools. Of the schools above, 41 were supplied with laptops, printers, projectors and speakers.

Honourable Speaker, we rededicate ourselves to the task of ensuring that we produce the skills that our economy needs by implementing the Three-Stream Model through the expansion of the technical vocational, technical occupational, and focus schools across all districts in the province.

Honourable Speaker, to reiterate what I always preach, the North West learners, regardless of their socio-economic circumstances, deserve nothing less, but the best.

As a department, we are convinced that effective teaching and learning cannot take place in dilapidated school premises.

We are, therefore, resolved to deliver quality education to our learners in school buildings that do not keep out the wind, the rain and the cold, but, importantly, in the infrastructure that is conducive, with enough classrooms, safe and appropriate sanitation facilities, clean water and electricity.

Honourable Speaker, I stand with immense pride and a profound sense of duty to present to you and the People of North West the work that was achieved through the Education Infrastructure Grant (EIG) in the previous financial year.

I am thrilled to announce that the last time that the department ever forfeited a portion of its EIG allocation due to poor spending patterns was in the 2019/20 financial year.

A burnt child dreads the fire.

From 2020/21 financial year to date, we have been extremely cautious about maintaining a strong balance between spending of the grant's budget and the actual delivery of infrastructure projects on the ground.

One of our foremost commitments made last year regarding infrastructure development was about the removal of all asbestos-containing materials in the identified 114 schools.

Today, I can confirm that the tests to establish whether or not the suspected material contains asbestos were concluded in all the affected schools. The results revealed that only 58 schools had asbestos-containing materials.

Thus far, we have removed asbestos-containing materials from 12 schools, with 25 schools undergoing decanting to ensure safety during this process. We will continue this vital work into the 2024/25 fiscal year, minimising learner disruption.

In the previous financial year, we have made great strides in handing over a number of completed school projects for occupation, which can be listed per district as follows:

In Bojanala District - Mamodibo Secondary, Relebogile Primary, Goakganya Primary, and Borololelo Primary School. Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati - Saruchera Primary School and in Ngaka Modiri Molema District: Monnaamere Primary School.

Over their collective construction span, these projects created over 2100 jobs for the local communities.

We declare for all to know that all things being equal, the department will, in the next three months, be handing over the following projects for occupation, since they are currently approaching a practical completion stage: Tlakgameng Primary, Mokala Primary School, Mphehana II Secondary, Sediko Primary, Chaneng Primary, Kgosi Shope Secondary, Gaseitsiwe Secondary, Tshedimoso Primary, DP Kgotleng Primary and Kosea Moeka Primary School.

Through these projects, the department was able to create well over 2340 jobs, which in the main, benefited the locals of where the school are built.

We will pursue and pay particular attention to the following projects which have recently taken off the ground: Batho-Batho Primary, Trotsville Primary, Morokweng Primary, Schweizer-Reneke Primary School as well as the construction of Coligny Special School hostel facility and renovations at the primary and secondary school.

It is anticipated that these investments will lead to employment creation for 2660 unemployed South Africans, especially young people in our province.

Honourable Speaker, taking into account the devastating impact of ESKOM's load shedding on critical operations of the department, we have installed back-up systems such as solar panels, uninterrupted power supply units and generators in special schools, district offices, HR offices, and examination facilities.

While there is much contestation around our Human Resource Management division as the Achilles heel of the department, we managed to register the following significant progress in the 2023/24 financial year:

- The Department appointed 686 Administrative and General Assistants in schools.
- We have increased the number of Departmental Heads in schools with high learner enrolment from four (4) to six (6). This has led to the creation of 61 additional Departmental Heads posts in the department, benefitting 39 schools in the four districts.
- In-sourced 52 cleaners at head office, 314 gardeners and cleaners in the four districts on contract and 84 new interns.

Without necessarily casting any aspersions, the advent of Treasury's Cost Containment Measures from around September 2023 to date threw a spanner in our

HR's works. Perhaps, we could have done even much more had it not been for this other hill that seems insurmountable.

Honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen, as a province, we need to appreciate the positive impact that well-functioning school governing bodies (SGBs) have in promoting the well-being and effectiveness of the school community by creating and maintaining school policies, providing support to principals and other staff and overseeing the general governance issues that are in the best interest of schools and learners.

We have successfully conducted the elections for new SGBs from 01 to 31 March 2024. By law, we are required to conduct SGB elections every three years.

We take this moment to once again to congratulate the new SGB members and wish them the best in the execution of their roles in their different schools across the province.

The support we give to our Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres following the migration of the ECD from Social Development to Education has matured.

I am pleased to report that in the 2023/24 fiscal year, among a host of achievements, we registered 230 ECD practitioners on the ETDP-SETA accredited NQF Level 4 qualification. Additionally, 147 ECD practitioners were trained on the Screening, Identification, Assessment, and Support (SIAS) framework, empowering them to identify children in distress in our ECD centres.

Honourable Speaker, our reflection of the previous financial year would not be complete without mentioning that in 2023/24 and also in the current year, we held consultative sessions mainly with sector labour unions, representative council of learners, governing body associations and the South African Principals Association focusing on matters of common interest in the department.

The feedback we received from them, particularly on school safety, infrastructure development including water and sanitation, psycho-social support for teachers and learners, human resource matters and the establishment of a provincial teacher development institute, has been encouraging, and we appreciate their willingness to share their thoughts on what we need to do to improve the quality of education and enhance learning outcomes in the province.

BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR THE 2024/25 MTEF PERIOD

Honourable Speaker, this year, we are allocated R 21.932 Billion to spend on education in the Province.

This is the largest budget for Education that has ever been tabled, and it is the largest in the Province compared to allocations for other government departments.

This is just one illustration of the fact that Education remains a constant apex priority for a Democratic South Africa.

Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members, the services rendered by the Department of Education are categorised into seven programmes.

A summary of the 2024/25 budget allocation per programme is as follows:

PROGRAMME	2024/2025 BUDGET ALLOCATION
1. Administration	R1 171 513 000
2. Public Ordinary Schools Education	R 16 331 239 000
3. Independent School Subsidies	R 56 181 000
4. Public Special School Education	R 1 002 181 000
5. Early Childhood Development	R 1 049 535 000
6. Infrastructure Development	R 1 317 407 000
7. Examination and Education Related Services	R 1 004 192 000
Total	R 21 932 248 000

At the heart of budget distribution per programme as outlined above, are the questions: How and for what is the budget going to be spent?

In a nutshell, this budget will enable us to build on the successes of the previous year as part of our strategic and bold direction to:

- materialise the service delivery outputs, which are clearly captured in our 2024/25 Annual Performance Plan,
- implement SONA and SOPA pronouncements, respectively, which encompass a clear vision that the delivery of quality education to every learner, in every school, in every classroom, in the North West is non-negotiable,
- push for a massive support to our schools, and
- ultimately to improve the quality and quantity of learning outcomes in all the grades.

Honourable Speaker, in pursuit towards building and leading a department that is accountable and transparent, has institutional integrity and performs at a level that has a positive impact on the lives of the people of the North West Province in particular and South Africa in general, we intend to spend the 2024/25 budget as follows per programme:

Programme 1: Administration (R1 171 513 000)

The strategic goal of this programme is to ensure effective and efficient governance, management and financial support systems in the department.

In the current financial year, this programme is allocated R1 171 513 000, which will be spent to continue with the implementation of interventions to improve the overall performance of the department's support services with special attention on issues raised by the Auditor-General on operational efficiency, compliance with predetermined objectives and legislation as well monitoring and evaluation of performance information.

Honourable Speaker, from 2014 to 2020, that is, for a period of seven (7) consecutive years, the department received unqualified audit opinions. However, this good record changed dramatically. For the past three (3) financial years the department became afflicted by qualified audit opinions.

For years, the Auditor-General, for instance, found the department wanting when it comes to obtaining enough audit evidence to form an opinion. That resulted in limitation of scope, which inevitably contributed substantially to a negative audit outcome.

This was due to the fact that the department's documents have been stored in a congested space that created the risk of vital records not being easily retrievable.

In addressing this limitation, we retrofitted one of our storage facilities to suit the specifications of a modern registry.

A decreased number of qualifications in the current audit cycle when compared to the prior years, gave us hope that a combination of this novel action and our relentless efforts to strengthen our governance, administrative and financial systems, monitoring and evaluation, internal audit, risk management, internal controls, management of commitment and immovable asset and contract management registers and implementation of the post-audit action plan would result in an improved audit outcome.

Unfortunately, that did not happen. Once more, we received a qualified audit opinion.

Based on this, Honourable Speaker, we shall regroup as team education to study the 2023/24 Auditor-General's Management Report, identify root causes that led to the qualified audit opinion and develop stringent remedial actions, based on the post-audit action plan.

The onus to improve the audit opinion is on us and no one else! Together we shall overcome!

Compensation of Employees

Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members, for this financial year, the Department has been allocated R16, 921 Billion for the Compensation of Employees budget. This constitutes almost 85,6% of our total budget, less conditional grants for the current financial year.

The budget for Compensation of Employees was reduced with about R 600 million at national level.

This had a negative impact on the operations of department because of the inability to fill certain critical vacant school and office-based posts.

The Department continues to work closely with Treasury and Office of the Premier to finalise the review of its organisational structure for a possible phased-in implementation approach from 2025/26 onward. The main objective of the review of

the organisational structure is to ensure that it effectively supports the implementation of the strategic mandate of the department.

The allocation of this programme will also fund on-the-job training for eight hundred and eighteen (818) school and office-based support staff.

Motlotlegi Mmusakgotla, I am thrilled to share with you that on 26 July 2024, 40 of our employees who were funded through our bursary scheme with ETDP-SETA graduated in Public Management Degree with Regenesys School of Public Management.

In the current year, we have targeted to offer 324 bursaries to employees who need to further their studies with various Higher Education Institutions.

We wish to take this opportunity to inform the House that the Funza Lushaka graduates will no longer be given preferential employment opportunities above other graduates, following the Recent ELRC Collective Agreement. This milestone development may, hopefully, present equal and fair employment opportunities to all graduate teachers who will be entering the profession for the first time.

In our quest to improve youth employability the department will also host new 50 interns and has requested additional funding from the ETDP-SETA to increase the above target.

Programme 2: Public Ordinary School Education (R16 331 239 000)

For the current financial year, Honourable Speaker, our Public Ordinary School Education Programme is allocated R16 331 239 000.

The main cost-drivers of this programme include funding for learning and teaching support materials (LTSM), professional teacher development, Learner Attainment Improvement Programme (LAIP), School Enrichment Programme, National School Nutrition Programme, subject advisory and curriculum implementation support, ICT-related costs as well as running costs on security and municipality services.

Learning and Teaching Material

Honourable Members, for 2024/2025 financial year, a total of R650 400 000.00 has been allocated for the procurement and provisioning of LTSM, which includes stationery packs, textbooks as well as supplementary material, to 1435 public ordinary schools.

An additional amount of R48 489 000.00 has been allocated to purchase and provide Grade R resource material to public ordinary schools.

A separate amount of R120 000 is allocated for the following four (4) special schools that implement the NCS (CAPS) curriculum, namely, Meerhof, Kutlwanong, Tlamelang and North West School for the Deaf, to top-up textbooks for their learners.

Ladies and gentlemen, the LTSM procurement process commenced in May 2024 with ordering of stationery and textbooks and the delivery thereof will be completed before schools close on 11 December 2024. This is intended to have our learners ready for the 2025 academic year from the first day of reopening of schools next year.

Professional Teacher Development Programme

Honourable Speaker, we will never lose sight of the importance of the need to continuously equip our teachers with recent subject content knowledge and teaching methods to keep them fit for the purpose.

A total of R31 674 000 is allocated this year for professional teacher development programmes. We intended to train 6 600 teachers across all the grades, 400 foundation phase teachers on literacy and numeracy content and methodology, 2 700 INTERSEN and FET teachers in Mathematics and Language content and methodology, 3 500 teachers on skills and competencies for a changing world, entrepreneurship education and School Management Teams on managing the implementation of curriculum and assessment.

The dream to have a provincial teacher development institute is still alive and will definitely materialise after the approval of the organisational structure, which is currently at advanced stage of its review.

In the meantime, the District Teacher Development Centres will continue to manage the delivery of the professional teacher development programmes at district level.

Learner Attainment Improvement Plan

Ladies and gentlemen, the current generation of learners need extra support to pass with good grades.

In the current financial year, we have allocated R248 million for our flagship Learner Attainment Improvement Programme (LAIP).

Honourable Speaker, the following LAIP strategies are already implemented to improve the Grade 12 performance from the 81.6% of 2023 to the desired 90% of 2024.

As an immediate priority, as early as February 2024, we have already put learners in the first push classes aimed at closing the learning gaps of the previous grade and strengthening the foundational skills in gateway subjects like Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Accounting.

The autumn and winter vacation camps, which benefitted about 26 335 learners have also been hosted successfully.

All vacation classes are directed at providing enriched learning. Performance will be tracked quarterly to detect challenges on time.

All grade 12 learners in Quintiles 1 to 3 schools received sim cards loaded with data to enable them to access online digital learning material and programmes such Dial-a-Tutor and other virtual classes.

We are determined to show in our actions that under the Seventh Administration we are going to drastically reduce the number of underperforming schools in our province.

We know those schools by name. Already we are intervening at Ikageleng secondary school in Ramotshere, NMM, Alabama secondary school in Matlosana, Dr KK and Itsupeng secondary, Mamusa, Dr RSM.

At this stage there is evidence that our interventions are beginning to bear desired fruits.

We affirm our determination to pay attention to the Grades 9 and 10 classes to ensure improved participation and performance in Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Accounting in accordance with the prescripts of the NDP Vision 2030 and Action Plan 2024.

The objectives of the forthcoming Departmental Maths Lekgotla, which should be held in early October 2024, will, among others, be to develop the strategies to increase the participation of learners in Mathematics and to enhance their performance in the subject.

National School Nutrition Programme

Honourable Speaker, we are extremely excited to announce that the implementation of the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) in the province, as one of the pro-poor programmes introduced by African National Congress-led government, is jealously guarded to ensure that it continues to achieve its intended purpose.

For the current financial year, the NSNP programme is allocated R 664 104 000.00 to serve nutritious meals to 752 309 (learners in 1323 Quintiles 1-3 public ordinary schools. From last year, we have been serving learners in the above category of schools with chicken livers as an alternative source of protein to fish.

We further serve breakfast to 157 546 learners in 272 identified primary schools and 19 551 learners in selected 28 secondary schools. This intervention, however, is still at pilot stage due to budgetary constraints. Regardless of this limitation, we strive to increase the number of schools provided with breakfast through on-going engagements with our private partners in education.

Honourable Members, through the NSNP we have employed 4 571 voluntary food handlers in the current financial year.

School Enrichment Programme

Ladies and gentlemen, the old adage that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy was relevant then and it is still relevant now.

To support the mental and physical fitness of our learners, we have allocated R15 849 627, 00 towards School Enrichment Programme for, among others, the participation of the learners in the annual ABC Motsepe South African School Choral

Eisteddfod (SASCE) Choral Music Competition, the Provincial Arts and Culture Festival, the promotion of mass participation in the inaugural Confederation of African Football (CAF) Football Cup for Boys and Girls Under 15 years old, Kay Motsepe Football and Netball Tournaments.

School Sports Wednesday Initiative be will escalated through comprehensive monitoring and support by School Enrichment officials to all schools. There will be capacity building of educators in the following sporting codes: Athletics, Netball, Volleyball and Basketball.

This year, allocation for in-school sport per district is as follows: Bojanala- R 3 870 000.00; Dr. Kenneth Kaunda - R 3 380 000.00; Ngaka Modiri Molema - R 3 617 762.00 and Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati has been allocated R 3 286 920.00.

Honourable Speaker, it is worthy to note that our historic partnership with the Department of Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation is getting stronger and better by day when it comes to developing and nourishing young talents.

Programme 3: Independent School Subsidies (R 56 181 000)

Honourable Speaker, Section 48 (2) of the South African Schools Act, as amended, provides for the granting of state subsidy to eligible independent schools.

In the current financial year, R 56 181 000 is allocated for the transferring of subsidies to the 37 eligible independent schools in the province.

Programme 4: Public Special School Education (R 1 002 181 000)

For the record, Honourable Members, our province has 32 Public Special Schools that provide education for learners experiencing barriers to learning and development.

To improve access and inclusivity in the mainstream schools, we have 230 Full Service Schools, which are ordinary schools equipped and supported to provide for the full range of learning needs among all our learners.

Honourable Speaker, this programme is allocated R1 002 181 000 in the current financial year.

R 235 036 000 from the above allocation will be transferred to 32 Special Schools to cater for their day-to-day running costs, improvement of ICT, provision LTSM, hostel and transport subsidy.

We have also allocated R 6 411 000 for the 230 Full Service Schools, which will be used for increasing the provisioning of assistive devices including ICT and braille material to assist in enhancing access to education for the learners experiencing barriers to learning and development who are placed in the mainstream schools.

On top of the main budget for Public Special School Education as indicated above, this financial year, an amount of R21 795 000 is allocated through the Learners with Severe to Profound Intellectual Disability (LSPID) Conditional Grant for Compensation of Employees, the procurement of tools of the trade, accredited training for caregivers, procurement of LTSM for 30 care centres, assistive devices for targeted 20 learners as well as to procure storage containers for four (04) care centres.

This year, the following Special Schools: LM Mokwena and Reoleboge in Bojanala District as well as Lillian Lehetla and Tlamelang in Ngaka Modiri Molema District will be provided with vehicles for the day to day running of the school and excursions.

Programme 5: Early Childhood Development (R 1 049 535 000)

Honourable Speaker, Early Childhood Development (ECD) is the most crucial period in the development of our children. As we know, early learning opportunities enable our little ones to develop and reach their full potential.

The strengthened early learning foundations map out a better trajectory for our learners in their educational journey.

From the ECD Census data, we now know the level of access to the current 2 446 ECD centres in our province.

Over and above the 500 registered ECD Centres that were migrated with the function from Social Development to Education in 2022, we have thus far registered 645 centres by 31 March 2024. We have targeted to register 417 ECD Centres in the current financial year.

This registration exercise helped us a great deal in stabilising the restructuring of the systems for improved monitoring and support for ECD programmes.

We are now able to plan and provide better resource allocation and improved access to the ECD centres.

For 2024/25 fiscal year, we have allocated R 1 049 535 000 for the ECD Programme.

From the above allocation, R3, 433,000 will be used to fund employee development programmes, including NCF train-the-trainer workshops for Social Workers and other ECD officials.

To strengthen the capacity of ECD practitioners, we have allocated R 35,294,000 to support 227 practitioners to complete the NQF Level 4 qualification by September 2024; 220 ECD practitioners to commence with the Occupationally Directed Education Training and Development (ODETD); and to train 200 practitioners on the Screening, Identification, Assessment and Support (SIAS) framework.

The ECD Conditional Grant has been allocated R 131,849,000 for the 2024/25 financial year to subsidise 25 453 children in 576 ECD centre-based programmes, support 5 700 children in 5 non-centre-based programmes.

Additionally, the ECD Equitable Share Grant has been allocated R45, 402,000 to benefit 10 116 children in 172 ECD centres.

Regarding Grade R implementation in public ordinary schools, we successfully delivered play material resources to 320 schools in the 2023/24 fiscal year.

In a quest for the universalisation of Grade R, for this year, we have allocated R12, 822,000 to stimulate the learning process and strengthen curriculum implementation in 650 public ordinary primary schools. This budget will be allocated to purchase fantasy furniture, educational toys, and combination jungle gyms.

We have allocated R 4, 281,000 through the EPWP Social Sector Incentive Grant from the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure for job creation, which will see us employing 117 Classroom Assistants, 4 Data Capturers, and 2 Administrative Assistants on a 12-month contract in the current financial year.

Last year, we launched 40 ECD Pocket Centres of Excellence across the North West province, with 10 centres in each district. We will expand and strengthen this legacy

project by adding 60 more centres in the current financial year, creating a prototype of what an excellent ECD service delivery model should entail.

We are working with a range of stakeholders and partners to provide our ECD Centres and the practitioners with relevant resources and the required professional development programmes.

Without being exhaustive, let me appreciate Macmillan Publishers, Shuter & Shooter Publishers, Oxford Publishers, Training and Resources in Early Education (TREE), Ntataise, The Do More Foundation and Impala Platinum Holdings Limited for the remarkable role they play in our ECD domain.

In the same vein, I wish to thank all ECD supervisors, practitioners and the entire ECD workforce for their role in shaping our children's early years.

Programme 6: Infrastructure Development (Infrastructure- R1 317 407 000)

Honourable Members, we view vandalism of the school infrastructure by learners and community members as an outright attack on our educational institutions and the state.

We must instil a sense of pride and ownership in our communities.

The shoddy work and under-pricing tendencies by contractors have plagued our projects for too long. We will no longer tolerate such substandard performance or unethical practices.

The infrastructure backlog requires a significant investment that far exceeds the department's annual allocations. As cited before, to address this challenge, we solicited for help from the private sector during the Education Lekgotla of 29 April 2024 at Sun City.

I am extremely proud to announce that we have found further support in the private sector from Siyanda Bakgatla, Sibanye-Stillwater, Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited, Royal Bafokeng Platinum Limited and Implats who are supporting our efforts to improve and develop our schools. We thank you for that immeasurable support.

The Education Infrastructure Grant (EIG) has been allocated R1.3 billion for the fiscal year 2024/25 to build new educational facilities, upgrade, maintain and repair existing infrastructures.

New Infrastructure Assets

To expand educational opportunities, we have allocated R503.4 million for new infrastructure assets.

Currently, 14 new and replacement school projects are underway, with 8 scheduled for occupancy this year, as indicated above.

The forthcoming sod turning ceremonies will be at Moedwil Combined Schools, which will create 1200 jobs by building hostels; Ikaneng Secondary School, which will generate 480 jobs; and Bathalerwa Primary School, where 560 jobs will be created by constructing a new school.

Our Special Schools are not left behind. This year, we will prioritise Coligny, Tlamelang and Kwutlanong Special Schools. The projects for these schools are currently at planning stage.

The communities of Tlotlang Thuto and Loretlweng Primary Schools may look forward to the commencement of new buildings in the current year. The tenders for their design and building will soon awarded.

Preparations for construction work will soon begin with fencing and earthworks at Rysmierbult, Ennis Thabong, Stinkhoutboom and Rekgonne Secondary School at Blydeville, Ngaka Modiri Molema District, bringing much-needed development, jobs, and educational opportunities. Urgent interventions have accelerated planning on specific projects, with the co-cited schools namely Shaleng Primary and Mothelesi Secondary making fast progress.

Upgrades and Additions

Continuous improvement is the hallmark of excellence. Therefore, we have allocated R356 million for upgrades and additions to existing infrastructure. This will ensure our schools meet evolving educational standards and provide and modern amenities for learners and educators.

Specifically, R276 million will address overcrowding, administration blocks and NSNP kitchens.

School Security

To enhance safety and security in our schools, we are going to spend over R80 million Rand on school fencing projects. This year, 80 schools will be receiving new fences. Priority for high security fences will be given to schools like Arefadimeng, John Frylinck, Sejankabo, Nkang Mahlale, Lapologang Secondary Schools due to regular incidents that threaten the safety of our learners and teachers.

These projects will create a safer learning environment and contribute to job creation. The department has appointed an Original Equipment Manufacturer to provide high-quality fences. However, installing the fences will significantly contribute to employment opportunities, fostering community development, and contributing to local economic growth, with an anticipated creation of 814 jobs.

Refurbishment and Rehabilitation

To maintain the functionality and safety of our school buildings, we have earmarked R126.5 million for refurbishment and rehabilitation. This allocation ensures that our educational infrastructure remains sustainable and conducive to learning. This year, 37 asbestos schools are being rehabilitated at a cost of R30 million.

Maintenance and Repairs

We recognise the importance of timely maintenance to prevent deterioration. Thus, R210.5 million has been allocated for maintenance and repairs, ensuring our educational facilities' longevity and operational efficiency. This budget includes R80 million for maintaining 160 schools through the district offices, R8.5 million for structural damage repairs, and R110 million set aside for storm-damages and other emergency maintenance.

Sanitation

Schools have been provided with appropriate sanitation in terms of the School Norms and Standards (2014). This sanitation includes ventilated improved pit latrines (VIP). There are, however, 51 schools (Bojanala-18, Dr KK-1, NMM-32), which still have pit

latrines, over and above having the modern sanitation facilities. Those pits will be demolished over the next few months.

Non-Infrastructure Investments

Beyond physical infrastructure, we have allocated R107.5 million to non-infrastructure investments. This includes school furniture, implementing agent fees, resource augmentation and occupation specific staff remuneration.

ECD Maintenance Grant

Recognising that the foundation of a child's education is laid in the early years, we have allocated R11.3 million for the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Maintenance Grant. These funds will ensure that our youngest learners, the future architects, scientists, and leaders, have safe, nurturing environments to spark their curiosity and imagination. This year, we are targeting maintenance for 11 ECD centres, focusing particularly on security fencing and sanitation facilities.

EPWP Integrated Grant

The EPWP Integrated Grant, a beacon of hope for many, has been allocated R2 million. This grant is not just about creating jobs; it's about restoring dignity, fostering community development, and providing our youth with meaningful employment opportunities within the education sector. It's an investment in human potential and local economic growth. We are targeting the employment of 71 young individuals.

Programme 7: Examination and Education Related Services – R 1 004 192 000

Honourable Members, as I have already stated, we aim to push ourselves to be among the top three (3) performing provincial education departments in the country when it comes to the 2024 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination results.

Analysts advised us that we can only achieve that goal if our matric pass rate could be beyond 87%, which is in our 2024/25 Annual Performance Plan.

Based on the capable workforce, particularly the committed men and women who go the proverbial extra mile to teach our grade 12 candidates, we aim to achieve 90% pass rate and also increase the number of candidates passing with Bachelors.

This programme has been allocated R 1 004 192 000, which will be spent on the administration, conduct and marking of the Grade 12 Preparatory Examinations, Final Grade 12 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations, School Based Assessment (SBA) administration, monitoring and moderation.

Ladies and gentlemen, the department also creates temporary jobs opportunities for university students and security personnel through the Examination and Assessment Chief Directorate.

For the 2023/24 financial year, 744 students were employed for June and December 2023 and June 2024 examinations. A total amount of R8 955 837,75 was spent for payment.

Motlotlegi Mmusakgotla, through examinations and assessment processes, we envisage to employ about 520 youth, mainly from our local universities and TVET colleges, to serve as marker assistants in our 2024 Grade 12 Examination marking centres.

We also intend to create employment opportunities for over 320 security guards during the conduct of the examination during the distribution of question papers and during the marking processes.

It is important to note, Honourable Speaker, that the assessment unit is also involved in the General Education Certificate (GEC) pilot, where 258 secondary schools are sampled and will be rolled out to cover all schools in 2025/26 financial year.

In order to improve our Grade 1 learners' literacy and numeracy skills, Early Learning National Assessment (ELNA) has been conducted for four years now, this year in 26 selected schools.

Furthermore, Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS) is performed in grades 8 and 9 in 32 secondary schools to gauge the learning environment and the working conditions of teachers in our schools, offering an opportunity for teachers and school principals to have an impact on education analysis and policy development in our schools.

Ladies and gentlemen, for some administrative reasons, this programme also caters for HIV/AIDS (Life Skills) Programme and the Sanitary Dignity Programme.

In this financial year, through the Division of Revenue Act, amended, the department received R16 202 000,00 to implement Life Skills HIV and AIDS Programme. The funds will be used mainly to implement psycho-social support programmes to the learners. Such support includes the prevention of teenage suicide, learner pregnancy, menstrual health, bullying, substance abuse, gender-based violence and mental health including emotional intelligence.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a universally accepted fact that a lack of access to sanitary pads is one of the causes of girl learner poor academic performance, low self-esteem, absenteeism and dropout from school.

In the 2024/25 financial year, the department allocated R 19 341 000 for Sanitary Dignity Programme (SDP), which aims to provide sanitary towels to pubescent girl learners in Quintiles 1 to 3 public ordinary schools and in the 32 special schools as a one of the means to enhance their self-esteem, keep them attending school regularly, to restore and protect their dignity.

CONCLUSION AND APPRECIATION

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, let me declare that the Education budget vote being tabled today is in sync with our 2024/25 Departmental Annual Performance Plan and it is also in tune with the pronouncements concerning Education that have been made by Premier Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi during the Occasion of the Official Opening of the Provincial Legislature on 25 July 2024.

As the Department of Education, we wish to commit ourselves before members of this august House and the People of North West that, despite the immense financial challenges we encounter, we are committed to the cause of always doing the best in our power to turn the tide and build on our successes.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the following:

- The Premier of North West, Honourable Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi for his remarkable leadership qualities, particularly, the ability to see the big picture.
- Honourable Members for this August House;
- Colleagues in the Executive Council for their firm support and guidance;

- Honourable Members of the Portfolio Committee for their vigilant oversight and guidance roles;
- The Provincial Chairperson of the African National Congress, Cde Dumile Nono Maloyi – You are my fountain of political wisdom and my pillar of strength. I am eternally grateful to you for teaching me that as a politician and a leader, I need remarkable endurance, determination, courage, integrity, accountability and to be humble, patient and to always view myself as a servant of the people, but not a leader first.
- And once more, I want to thank the African National Congress for demonstrating its confidence and faith in me by entrusting me with the responsibility to be the political head of Education for the second time in a row. I dare not fail to remember that the mandate to deliver quality education in every school, in every classroom, to every learner in the province is non-negotiable.
- The late Cde Dikago Pule in heaven – To him I say, the in-person moments may have ended, *laatie yaka*, but memories last forever. May your gallant spirit continue to rest in peace!
- A big thanks to our followers on social media platforms. Your invaluable information and criticism keeps us determined to do everything in our power to respect, protect and uphold the right of every learner in the province to receive education in a conducive environment, notwithstanding the socio-economic challenges we are facing as education on daily basis;
- The Acting Superintendent-General Mr Maropene Seshibe and Team Education - Wow, your dedication is immeasurable! *Ke thata ka lona*.
- Most importantly, my superheroes, our school principals, SMTs, teachers, parents and learners for their unwavering commitment, dedication and hard work.
- Education sector social partners – labour unions, SGB associations, civil society, our various education partners for their continuous invaluable support and guidance.
- To my family, starting with my husband Rainy Kgotso Motsumi. I am indebted to you for your humility, support and all the sacrifices you have made. Thank you for

holding the fort and for amazingly making our children Amantle Aluta and Aarona Azania Asante not to feel lost during my absence due to work and political assignments. *Ke a leboga Mogatsaka. A modimo a go boloke, a go phatsimisetse tsotlhe mo bophelong*; and,

- To my parents, mom and dad, I am in awe of God for the inalienable role you play in my life from infancy to where I am today and beyond. May God continue to protect *you and you feel His presence every step of the way.*

Honestly and truly, it is not by my own strength and wisdom to make it this far.

For from God and through Him and for Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever!
Amen

A luta continua, vitória é certa'!

The struggle continues, victory is certain!

Amandla!

Thank you very much!

NOTES



North West Department of Education

BUDGET SPEECH

2024/25