



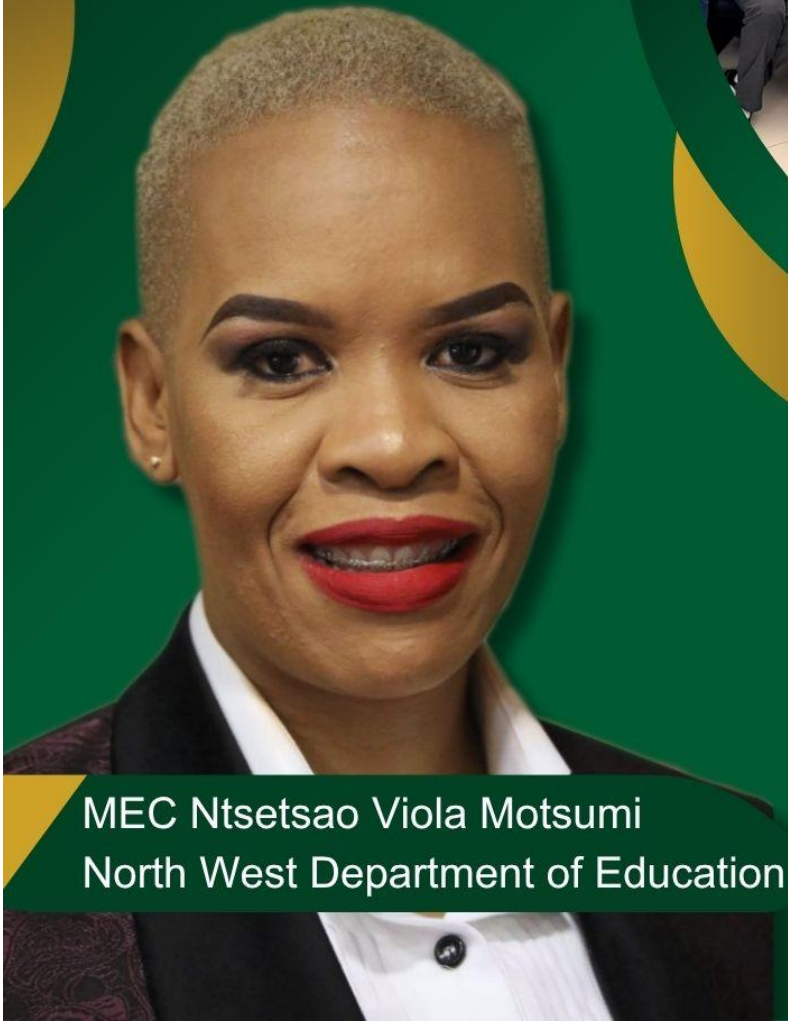
education

Department:
Education
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

BUDGET SPEECH

2026/27



MEC Ntsetsao Viola Motsumi
North West Department of Education

BUILDING A
NORTH WEST PROVINCE
THAT WORKS FOR ALL



**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 2026/2027 BUDGET VOTE SPEECH
DELIVERED BY MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MRS
NTSETSAO VIOLA MOTSUMI (MPL) AT THE NORTH WEST
PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE ON 23 JUNE 2026**

**Speaker of the North West Provincial Legislature, Honourable Dr
Desbo Mohono;**

Deputy Speaker, Honourable Collen Maine;

North West Premier, Honourable Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi;

Chief Whip, Honourable Motlalepula 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;**

**Departmental Officials, Educators, Principals and Learners present
here;**

Fellow citizens of the North West province.

I rise before this House today with a deep sense of responsibility and commitment to present the 2026/27 Education Budget Vote. This budget is more than figures and allocations; it reflects our priorities, values, and unwavering belief that education remains the most powerful tool for transformation, equality, and economic progress.

Re le puso, re lemoga gore bokamoso jwa porofense le jwa setšhaba sa rona, bo letse mo diphaposiborutelong tse re di agang, barutabana ba re ba maatlafatsang, le ditšhono tse re di direlang ngwana mongwe le mongwe go sa kgathalesege lemorago la gagwe. Ka jalo tekanyetsokabo ya gompiano, e tlhagisa maitlhommo a rona a go tiisa metheo ya thuto, tokafatso ya dipholo, le go netefatsa gore ga go na moithuti yo o salelang kwa morago.

Honourable Speaker, we present this budget at a time when communities continue to face significant social and economic pressures. Yet, despite these challenges, we remain steadfast in our mission to provide safe schools, quality teaching, modern learning resources, and an education system that equips our young people with the skills needed for the demands of the future.

In resonating with the following paraphrased words of the 2026 Provincial President of the Representative Council of Learners Ms Angelina Lerato Mokoena,

"To the youth of 1976 and the youth of 2026, the fight to end poverty, unemployment and inequality in our communities and country continues" the North West Department of Education commemorated the 50th anniversary of 16 June 1976 uprisings by participating in the career

exhibition event in collaboration with the Green Youth Network and Orbit TVET College Mankwe Campus.

The event brought together 360 Mathematics and Sciences learners representing 08 local secondary schools from Bojanala District.

The exhibition sought to align youth development with the economic needs of the province, which require strong technical and engineering, mining, agriculture, and rising industrial sectors.

Building on the impressive 87.52% achieved by the Class of 2024, the Class of 2025 continued the upward trajectory, attaining an 88.49% pass rate, placing the North West 4th nationally. All districts performed above 85%. Our target for the Matric Class of 2026 is 95% pass rate.

Temogo Matong from Setswakgosing Secondary School, emerged as one of the best performing learners nationally and has since enrolled for Medicine at the University of Cape Town.

A total of 18 166 learners (44.4%) qualified for Bachelor's degree studies, strengthening the province's contribution to the skills pipeline.

Minister's District Awards

Our province continues to fly high. Bojanala District secured 1st position nationally in the Category of Excellence in Support for Improving Primary Schools Learning Outcomes. This achievement reflects the relentless efforts of district officials and school leaders who continue to demonstrate excellence despite resource and contextual limitations.

The Department sincerely appreciates the alumnus of Sekhing Primary School for their continued commitment to giving back to their former

school. Through funding provided by Impala Mines, they facilitated the construction of a kitchen, dining hall, and school fencing. This remarkable contribution has significantly improved the school's infrastructure and learning environment, while demonstrating the power and potential of strong alumni networks in supporting educational development and community upliftment.

Public–Private Partnerships: Strengthening the Education Ecosystem

Eastplats Mine is recognised for successfully delivering critical infrastructure at Polonia Primary School, Sonop Primary School, and the planned project at Bokfontein Primary School. Harmony Gold’s longstanding contributions to schools in the Matlosana and Ratlou areas are valued. Sibanye-Stillwater has made a significant impact in the Marikana and Rustenburg mining communities. Siyanda Bakgatla Mine, Impala, and Glencore are supporting classroom expansion, infrastructure upgrades, sanitation improvements, maintenance interventions, and school replacement initiatives. Palm Chrome Mine continues to contribute to improved educational infrastructure, while Northam Platinum’s Zondereinde Mine remains committed to learner support and school infrastructure development. Together, these efforts demonstrate the value of collaboration between government, communities, and the mining sector in ensuring that every learner has access to safe, dignified, inclusive, and high-quality learning environments.

A word of appreciation is extended for the investments already made, while encouraging continued support for education infrastructure, learner development, special-needs education, Grade R expansion, school maintenance, digital learning, and infrastructure modernisation. Together,

these efforts can create schools that inspire excellence, expand opportunities for future generations, and contribute to the development of our province and country.

Beyond the mining houses, our corporate partners, which include but not limited to Data Driven Districts (DDD), Old Mutual, AVBOB, MultiChoice, Minopex, Telkom Foundation, MTN SA Foundation, Shutter & Shooter, McMillan Publishers, Lebonelitho Altron, and Eskom have stepped up significantly.

These partnerships reaffirm the importance of collaboration between government, business and communities in building a better future for our children and strengthening the quality of education across the province.

Recognition of Learner Performance

A twelve-year learner Mbulelo Tolom from Dr Kenneth Kaunda District in Matlosana emerged position one in the National Spelling Bee Competition and represented South Africa at a Continental Spelling Bee where he is part of the team proceeding to International Spelling Bee Competition in China.

2025 National Teaching Awards (NTA) Achievements

The North West Province emerged as the overall best performing province in the 2026 version of the National Teaching Awards.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to acknowledge the following educators who, in October 2025, went to the national eliminations of the National Teaching Awards and made it to the top positions:

Mr Tshepiso Seshuwane from Thuto Neo Primary school in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District obtained Position 1 in Excellence in Mathematics Teaching (GET).

Reverend Dr David Tlhowe from Tlhabane West Primary School in Bojanala District scooped Position 1 in the category of Excellence in Primary School Leadership. Rev. Dr Tlhowe further made us proud by receiving a prestigious Fellowship Award from the Africa Federation of Teaching Regulatory Authorities (AFTRA) in Gaborone, Botswana on 05 May 2026.

Mr Bongumusa Mabuza from Reabona Secondary School in Dr Kenneth Kaunda District obtained Position 2 in Excellence in Teaching Natural Sciences in the GET Band

Mr Tlhalefang Zwane from Bolokang Secondary School in Ngaka Modiri Molema District secured Position 2 in the Category of Excellence in Teaching Physical Sciences.

Ms Magaretha Bornman from Laerskool Sannieshof in Ngaka Modiri Molema District attained Position 3 in the category of Excellence in Primary School Teaching.

Mr Ronewa Tshikudu from Noka Ya Lorato Primary School in Bojanala District accomplished the Third Position in Excellence in Technology-Enhanced Teaching.

Ms Koketso Motaung from Temogo Special School grabbed Position 3 in the category of Excellence in Special Needs Teaching

Once again, I salute these and the other educators who represented the province at the national level for fighting a good fight. We urge the next generation of the NTA participants to hoist the North West Province flag to majestic heights in the upcoming national NTA which will be held in October 2026.

BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR THE 2026/27 PERIOD

Honourable Speaker, this financial year, the Department will spend R24 173 016 000, which represents an increase of 5.58% compared to R 22 894 640 000 of the last financial year.

The priorities and services rendered by the Department of Education are categorised into seven programmes.

I wish to table the Department of Education’s Budget Vote 8 for 2026/27 financial year for consideration and approval by this Honourable House as follows:

| Programme | 2026/27 (R’000) |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Administration | R1 354 769 |
| 2. Public Ordinary Schools Education | R18 169 557 |
| 3. Independent School Subsidies | R60 929 |
| 4. Public Special School Education | R1 093 762 |
| 5. Early Childhood Development | R1 259 546 |
| 6. Infrastructure Development | R1 384 111 |
| 7. Examination and Education Related Services | R850 342 |
| Total | R 24 173 016 |

Briefly, this budget will empower the Department to strengthen the implementation of policies and systems poised to enable the fulfilment of its core mandate of delivering quality basic education.

Honourable Speaker, before I delve into the detailed allocation per programme, I deem it prudent to bring to the attention of this august house that given the inherent labour intensive nature of the Department, R18 576 434 000, which constitutes 77% of the total of this budget, will be spent on Compensation of Employees.

PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION (R1 354 769 bn)

This financial year, administration has been allocated R1 354 769 000. The strategic purpose of this programme is to provide overall management and support services of the Department to ensure the fulfilment of its mandate. This programme underpins the efficient functioning of the entire Department, ensuring operational stability, institutional accountability, prudent financial management, and the continuous monitoring and evaluation of performance outcomes.

PROGRAMME 2: PUBLIC ORDINARY SCHOOL EDUCATION (R18 169 557 bn)

For this financial year, a budget of R18 169 557 000 has been allocated to Public Ordinary School Education for a wide range of services such as goods and services, transfers to Public Ordinary Schools, Institutions, Households, Machinery and Equipment, Learning and Teaching Support Material (LTSM), National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP), School Enrichment, Learner Attainment Improvement Programme, Professional Teacher Development, Curriculum Implementation, and Information and Communication Technology.

Learner Teacher Support Material (LTSM)

Honourable Speaker, the Department has allocated R766 908 000 for (LTSM), which encompasses a wide range of materials, including textbooks, workbooks, stationery, and even digital resources.

Learner Attainment Improvement Plan (LAIP)

R200 000 000 has been put aside for the (LAIP), which takes care of the intervention or rather support plans to enhance learner performance. Integration of ICT to teaching and learning remains a key priority in the advancement of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). To date, the Department has managed to procure data enabled gadgets to improve digital learning transformation in our schools.

These gadgets will assist educators and learners to enhance continuous assessment tracking, targeted interventions, examinations preparations and improvement and virtual laboratories services. It will reduce the administrative burden on educators. It will also improve real-time tracking of learner performance.

As the Department progresses with the implementation of ICT integration in schools, this will lessen the current face-to-face interaction of extra classes.

Maths, Science and Technology (MST)

The Department will continue supporting 31 Technical Vocational Schools, 18 Agricultural Focus schools, and 13 schools implement Technical Occupational Subjects, which has been extended to 3 more schools in the

current academic year in our endeavour to strengthen implementation of the Three-Stream Model.

We remain resolute in our resolve to introduce the implementation of agricultural and technical subjects in grades 8 and 9 in the relevant focus schools to establish foundational skills in the above subjects for their transition to grade 10.

A total of R44 833 000 for Maths, Science and Technology Conditional Grant is allocated to support schools identified.

National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP)

For 2026/27 financial year, NSNP has been allocated R746 983 000 to feed an estimated 751 847 learners in 1 331 quintiles one to three public ordinary schools. This programme provides 4 571 job opportunities for Food Handlers.

The Department is exploring various options to ensure sustainable provision of safe and nutritious meal in all public schools. We have started benchmarking exercises to explore how other provinces are implementing NSNP framework. This intervention seeks to circumvent incidents of food poisoning and unhealthy food. We believe implementation of this strategy will further lead to creation of sustainable job opportunities.

Professional Teacher Development

The Department has allocated R26 000 000 towards professional teacher development. This funding will support a range of training programmes, including Numeracy and Reading in the Foundation Phase, as well as

subjects beyond Foundation Phase such as languages, Mathematics, and digital skills training for teachers and subject specialists.

We are pleased to announce that the Department has entered into Memorandum of Understanding with North West University, WITS University, and TVET Colleges to enhance the quality and reach of our training initiatives.

Key ETDP SETA initiatives targeted for 2026/27 include the provision of laptops to 350 teachers during ICT training by WITS University to enhance digital skills, and enrolling 53 principals and deputy principals in an Advanced Diploma in Education on school management, through North West University.

Filling of Vacant Posts

The North West Education Department is committed to filling all teaching and management posts at school level. In September 2025, a total of 1 311 temporary educators employed in substantive funded vacant posts were converted to permanent employees in line with Collective Agreement Number 2 of 2024.

To ensure consistency and stability in schools, the Department advertised 828 posts of Departmental Heads and Deputy Principals. Furthermore, 673 Principal, Deputy Principal and Departmental Head Posts were advertised and successfully filled. In order to support the Special Schools, 32 posts for Audiologists, Occupational and Physiotherapists, Nurses and Speech and Language Therapists and Educational Therapists were advertised. Senior Management Posts (Directors, Chief Directors and Deputy Director Generals) were advertised, and the Department is finalising selection and appointment of these key management posts.

Institutional Governance Support Services (IGSS)

For 2026/27, an amount of R5 000 000 will be allocated for SGB elections, advocacy, election and training of all Representative Council of Learners (RCL) structures on their roles and responsibilities to support improvement on learning outcomes. Capacity building of School Management Teams, Female in Leadership and Management are key priorities area that will be implemented.

Programme 3: Independent School Subsidies (R60 929 million)

The Department has allocated R60 929 000 which will be transferred to 52 subsidised independent registered schools.

PROGRAMME 4: PUBLIC SPECIAL SCHOOL EDUCATION (R1 093 762 bn)

Public Special Schools have been allocated R1 093 762 000 of which R24 000 000 is specifically earmarked for the Learners with Severe to Profound Intellectual Disabilities (LSPID), for appointment of therapists, care givers, personnel care and procurement of assistive devices.

The Department has set R266 247 000 for transfers to Public Special Schools for day-to-day operations, school administration procurement of wheel chairs, walking aids, communication aids, LTSM provision of tool kits and tools of trade.

To safeguard our commitment to inclusive education, we are providing Reatlegile and Bophelong Special Schools with 22-seater passenger vehicles equipped with specialised assistive devices and adaptive mobility features.

PROGRAMME 5: EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (R1 259 546 bn)

For this financial year, the Department has allocated R291 857 000 for ECD conditional grant. This allocation will be spent on expanding access to quality ECD services, supporting eligible ECD centres to improve the overall quality of their programmes as well as to meet their basic health and safety standards, and improving the skills and working conditions of ECD practitioners.

To enhance universal Grade R access and curriculum delivery in public schools, R13 400 000 will be utilised to supply 400 schools offering Grade R with educational toys, fantasy furniture, and combination jungle gyms, all aimed at stimulating learning through play. To professionalise the ECD sector, R22 000 000 is set aside to enrol practitioners in professional development programmes with Higher Education Institutions.

An amount of R 277 524 000 is allocated for subsidy payments to eligible ECD centres and this allocation will benefit 47 475 children for this financial year.

R7 400 000 has been allocated for the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Integrated Grant, to create 200 job opportunities for youth and support ECD operations which include the appointment of 154 classroom assistants, 6 Data Capturers, and 40 General Assistants on 12-month contracts. Over and above that, skills development will be offered to the participants to assist them in creating their own SMMEs at the end of their contracts.

PROGRAMME 6: INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT (R1 384 111 bn)

Honourable Speaker, for Infrastructure Development, the Department has allocated R1 384 111 000. This allocation comprises of R1 369 441 000 for Education Infrastructure Grant (EIG), R14 670 000 for Early Childhood Maintenance Grant and R7 657 000 for the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Integrated Grant.

Motlotlegi Mmusakgotla, le Maloko a Kgotlapeomolao,

Honourable Members, the Department continued to expand and improve education infrastructure across the province during the 2025/26 financial year.

Several new and replacement schools were completed and are now fully operational, including Richard Tumahole Lentsela Primary, Tlhalefang Primary, Kgosi Shope Secondary, Trotsville Primary, Batho Batho Primary, Monchusi Secondary, Mphe-Bana II Secondary, Sarafina, Tigane Primary and Sediko Primary Schools. These projects have helped address infrastructure backlogs and improve learning environments.

Infrastructure delivery included improved water infrastructure at 30 schools, new sanitation facilities at 17 schools, and 115 maintenance projects. To address overcrowding, 492 classrooms and 26 specialised facilities, including laboratories, libraries and computer centres, were completed. School safety and accessibility were enhanced through perimeter fencing at 37 schools, refurbishment of 8 administration

facilities, upgrades of 8 full-service schools, and construction of 36 support facilities.

The Department also strengthened Early Childhood Development through maintenance at 20 ECD centres and the delivery of 44 new Grade R classrooms. Maintenance interventions were completed at 9 special schools.

The Department acknowledges delays at DP Kgotleng Primary, Tigane Primary, Dirang ka Natla and Kagiso Barolong Secondary Schools due to contractor and professional team challenges. Measures are underway to resolve these issues and ensure completion within the current financial year.

2026/27 Infrastructure Development Plan

Honourable Speaker,

The Department has allocated R1 384 000 000 to infrastructure development in 2026/27 to address backlogs, reduce overcrowding, and provide safe, functional learning environments. Despite ongoing progress, the province still faces an infrastructure backlog estimated at R21.5 billion, excluding Grade R and ECD requirements reinforcing the need for partnering with the private sector and mines.

A total of R393.904 million is allocated for new and replacement schools. During the year, the Department will complete Mahube Primary, Batlhalerwa Primary, Tigane Primary, Dirang ka Natla Secondary, Morokweng Primary Schools, and boarding facilities at Coligny Special

School and Moedwil Hostels. Ennis Thabong Primary School has also been completed and will help alleviate overcrowding.

Construction is underway on satellite schools at Utlwanang, Broederspruit, Fikile Jakeni and Madiba Primary Schools, while work will commence on Thabo Mpempe, Bloemhof, Rekgonne, Damonsville, Vaaloewer Primary and Secondary, Mothelesi Secondary, Shaleng and Stinkhoutboom Schools. The Rysmierbult Mega Farm School project is also progressing.

To strengthen special needs education, R84.170 million has been allocated for projects at Tlamelang and Rekgonne Bapo Special Schools, with planning continuing for Temoso and Kutlwanong Special Schools. Contractors have already been appointed for Loretlweng Primary School and Dinokana School for Autism.

A further R368.666 million is allocated for upgrades and additions, including 350 classrooms, 35 Grade R classrooms, water services at 15 schools, electricity connections at 181 schools, and sanitation upgrades at 23 schools. Major upgrades continue at C.N. Lekalake Secondary, Thutong Primary, Telesho Primary, Tlhale Primary, Nietverdiend Combined and Micha Kgasi Secondary Schools.

To enhance school safety, 50 schools will receive high-security perimeter fencing.

An amount of R459.871 million is allocated for refurbishment and rehabilitation, focusing on storm-damaged schools, structural repairs,

infrastructure renewal, and the eradication of remaining asbestos structures.

The Department has also set aside R64.670 million for maintenance and repairs, including 120 planned maintenance projects.

To strengthen early learning, six Early Learning Centres will be established at selected primary schools and 13 ECD centres maintained.

A further R97 million is allocated for school furniture, programme management, and professional services to ensure the effective delivery of infrastructure projects.

Through the Education Infrastructure Grant, these projects are expected to create approximately 4 200 job opportunities while improving access to quality education across the province.

PROGRAMME 7: EXAMINATION AND EDUCATION RELATED SERVICES (R850 342m)

Programme 7 budget decreases by 21.3% from R1 080 933 000 in 2025/26 to R850 342 000 in 2026/27, largely due to the pay point realignment to Programme 1 and discontinuation of the Basic Education Employment Initiatives.

The Department has set aside a budget of R114 000 000 for Examinations and Assessment.

This funding will enable us to continue with the administration, conduct and marking of the National Senior Certificate (NSC)/Grade 12 examinations, preparatory examinations, and the implementation of School-Based Assessment (SBA).

The programme continues to create temporary job opportunities for 650 marking assistants, 250 security personnel and 250 Invigilators during the marking process.

Special Projects Sub-programme caters for the implementation of the Sanitary Dignity Programme, targeting 102 464 girl learners from Grade 4 upwards in quintiles 1 to 3 public ordinary schools. The Department has allocated R21 115 000 for 2026/27 financial year.

CONCLUSION AND APPRECIATION

It would be remiss of us to present this budget without acknowledging the profound losses we have suffered this academic year. We stand here today carrying the heavy memory of learners who tragically perished while wearing their school uniform; a painful reminder of the stark safety challenges our communities face daily.

In this regard, we remember with deep sorrow the following learners: Enica Nombela, Remofiloe Mtshengu, and Kitso Mathope from Hoërskool Vryburg, Olebogeng Tagote from Boikagong Secondary School, Thoriso Duncan from Mosikare Secondary School in Ngaka Modiri Molema

Honourable Speaker, this Budget Speech is solemnly dedicated to their memory and to the many other learners who lost their lives while striving to change their lives for the better through education.

We cannot offer mere words of comfort. Their dreams and cut-short aspirations will continue to inspire our work as we build a safer, better future for every child under our care.

Let me also take this moment to express my sincere gratitude to the Premier of the North West Province, Honourable Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi, for his guidance, support, and leadership in enabling me to effectively execute my responsibilities.

Again, I wish to take this opportunity to thank and appreciate my political home, the African National Congress, under the capable and visionary leadership of Dumile Nono Maloyi. Chairperson, you have been more than a leader; you have been a brother, a mentor, and a pillar of strength.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the educators, school management teams, support staff, governing bodies, labour unions, South African Principals Association (SAPA), parents, and learners for their continued dedication and resilience. Your commitment remains the foundation upon which the success of our education system is built.

A special high five to all our social media followers for the continuous engagement with us by sharing your thoughts, feedback, and ideas. Your voices matter the most.

I also extend my gratitude to the Superintendent-General, Senior Management Teams, officials of the North West Department of Education, the of the Department, for their hard work and commitment in advancing the mandate of the Department.

Honourable Speaker, I would like to thank Honourable Members of this House for their oversight, guidance, and support as we continue working together to improve the lives of our people through education.

Honourable Members, I wish to extend my deepest appreciation to my family, Rre le Mme Jabanyane, my husband, Rainy Kgotso Motsumi, my

precious children Amantle Aluta and Aarona Asante Azania. Thank you for being a constant source of love, hope, and motivation in my life. Your smiles, dreams, and future aspirations remind me every day why the work we do in government matters so deeply. You continue to give me strength and purpose in serving our people.

Ke a leboga.

NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

BUDGET SPEECH

2026/27

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Department:
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