

# Policy & BUDGET SPEECH 2024



Ms. Cathy Dlamini, MPL  
MEC: Education



Mpumalanga Department of Education



@MPEducation

#MPEDUBUDGETSPEECH

"Nothing about us, without us" No One is being left behind.



MONDAY  
05 AUGUST 2024



LEGISLATURE CHAMBER  
RIVERSIDE GOVERNMENT COMPLEX



09H00 PM

**Policy and Budget Speech vote no 7 by the MEC for Education, Ms. Cathy Dlamini at the Provincial Legislature in the City of Mbombela Local Municipality on 05 August 2024.**

Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, Hon. **LL Masina**

Deputy Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, **Hon. S Masango**

Hon. Premier of Mpumalanga Province, **Mr. Mandla Ndlovu**

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education, **Hon. Thoko Khoza**

Hon. Members of the Provincial Legislature

Members of the Executive Council

Provincial Secretary of the Ruling Party, Cde. Muzi Chirwa

Leadership of Labour Unions

Leadership of the Associations of School Governing Bodies

Leadership of Education Partners, both Public & Private

Head of Department, **Mrs. Lucy Moyane**

Members of Senior Management

Distinguished Guests

Representatives from the Media

Community Members who are following us through various media platforms.

**Lotjhani**

Thank you so much for the opportunity to table the 2024/25 Policy and Budget Speech of the Department of Education, Vote no. 7.

## INTRODUCTION

**Honorable Speaker**, Education is a fundamental pillar of nation-building. Therefore, it cannot be done by one person or sector. It takes a nation to educate a child.

As a collective, we are all preoccupied working together to provide quality education for our children, resolving challenges affecting them, in order to contribute to the growth of our Province Mpumalanga, ***the Place of the Rising Sun.***

## ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PAST 30 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY

**Madam Speaker**, the Province has made serious strides to improve the conditions of teaching and learning for all learners from the Early Childhood Development Phase, Foundation Phase, Senior Phase and Further Education and Training Phase.

**30 years into democracy**, this province is able to showcase that more than 1 million learners are in schools learning irrespective of their race, colour, gender or creed in more than **1 600** schools, of which **87%** are **NO Fee Schools**.

To date, in this stunning Province, we are able to confirm without any fear of contradiction that **1 463** ECD centres cater for **69 172** Early Childhood Development Children in the 0 to 4 years old cohort.

To ensure that our learners are well nourished and able to learn, **910 978** are provided with meals on a daily basis through the National School Nutrition Programme.

The Provincial Ephraim Mogale Bursary Scheme has, since 2019 provided at least **923** student beneficiaries. This number adds up to a total of **1759** which includes students who furthered their studies outside the country.

**Madam Speaker**, having listened to the electorate in this financial year, the Department intends to accelerate the improvement of school infrastructure, eradicate pit latrines, improve internet connectivity in **800** schools, procure and distribute **laptops to all school principals of public ordinary schools**, Improve learner performance in all grades and especially in the National Senior Certificate Examination Results.

**In addition to these focus schools**, the Department will introduce **Schools for Visual Performing Arts and Schools for Sports Excellency and Mining Schools**. We must do this to ensure that our children are able to benefit from a variety of opportunities which are all over the world.

**Education has to respond to the needs of the economy and the people, the Department has established different focus areas.**

**Madam Speaker**, some of these learners are attending in **101** Maths, Science and Technology Schools which are linked to the OR Tambo Mathematics, Science and Technology Academy, others are attending in the **16** Agricultural

Schools, others are attending in the **45** Technical High Schools, and the new focus is on the Visual and Performing Arts Schools.

The Department will explore the establishment of Science Centres and ensure that there is a fully functional science centre in each of the four districts.

**We are living in the era of fourth industrial revolution, to respond to this, the department has started with e-learning, Grade Twelve learners are using tablets which are loaded with e-learning material and supplementary material, there are eight (8) schools, two (2) in each district where all learners from grade eight to twelve are using tablets in this province through Ubuhlebusile e-Learning Programme.**

Some of these learners were enrolled in schools that have piloted Coding and Robotics for the past three years and will be implemented in full scale in the next academic year.

## **PLANS FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Department further intends to improve its human resource capacity by appointing at least **200** new members of staff, converting temporary teachers into permanent positions in line with the Education, Labour Relations Council Resolution and appoint administration staff within different directorates.

The Department will advertise the posts of subject advisors shortly. This will help a great deal to improve the performance of our learners in a sustainable manner.

## INTENTIONS OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> ADMINISTRATION

**Madam Speaker**, in his Opening of Parliament Speech for the **7<sup>th</sup> Administration**, **President Cyril Ramaphosa** emphasized the need to work together to drive inclusive growth and job creation, reduce poverty, tackle the high cost of living, and build a capable, ethical and developmental state.

This injunction will be integrated into the five-year plan for the current administration.

The Department will ensure that all schools perform above 80% in all grades and in the National Senior Certificate Examinations.

We will pay special focus and provide the required support to Early Childhood Development Institutions and Special Schools.

The Department will make sure that the School for the Deaf and Blind learners which will be at Emalahleni is completed and be fully functional within this five-year period.







## CHALLENGES AND PROPOSED MITIGATION

**Madam Speaker**, what is giving us sleepless nights, are incidents of crime which are making their way into some of our schools.

**Just this last month**, the Department received reports of an incident where a learner in one of our schools at Emalahleni Local Municipality, was kidnapped at the school gate in the morning, **fortunately**, the police found the learner in Gauteng Province and arrested the kidnappers.

**Once more**, we wish to use this opportunity to extend our profound appreciation to the police for the swift response in attending to this matter.

The Department further received reports of two learners who committed suicide allegedly after their teachers invited their parents to the school to discuss behavioral related challenges. **The Department is investigating these matters.**

As government, civil society, labour formations, traditional and religious leaders, business and communities we need to hold hands to advance the provisioning of quality education in our province.

This makes it crystal clear that we must work together more than ever before to ensure that we do not have instances where learners are unable to be in class because there is no running water within their residential area, where teachers are unable to focus on core responsibilities because they are scared of a possible criminal intruder who may enter a classroom to rob them of their



belongings or where a parent may not be certain that his /her child will return home safe.

**It is for this reason**, that we are making a clarion call for all of us to unite in action and act in unison towards a joint effort to free schools from any form of social ills, be it drugs, gangsterism, bullying and corporal punishment to mention just a few.

The Department will work collaboratively with the **Moral Regeneration Movement** to instill the value systems which will help to move our education in the Province forward.

Our collective view is that “***Education remains a precious commodity***” which cannot be relegated solely to the Department of Education, it is everyone’s enterprise.

The **other matter of concern** relates to the provision of scholar transport, the road worthiness of the transport and its safety standards.

As we speak, six learners passed on and others sustained injuries following an accident which took place on **Wednesday, 31 July 2024** between Emakhazeni and Steve Tshwete Local Municipalities.

We take this opportunity once more, to extend our sincere condolences to the bereaved families and to wish those who are injured a speedy recovery.

We equally appreciate the kind of support received throughout the Province and Nationally. **May their Souls Rest in Peace.**

We are in constant engagements with the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport whose Department is seized with the responsibility to ensure that there is improvement in this regard.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Madam Speaker**, as I was engaging with stakeholders and visited some schools, it became clear that something needs to be done by the Department to prioritise issues of **Climate Change in our agenda**.

This must be done considering the devastating natural disasters that bring **havoc to parts of our province and schools and at times cost lives**. When we talk about storm damaged schools, we must understand this within the context of Climate Change and its negative impact.

The programmes to plant trees, cultivate food and flower gardens and the Cleanest School Programme need to be strategically implemented mindful of the fact that they equally respond to alleviate the severe impact of climate change.







## APPRECIATION OF PARTNERSHIP

**Madam Speaker**, we are a province at work to resolve challenges and to improve the lives of our communities through the delivery of quality education.

We are encouraged that the Department has established solid partnerships which are working towards the improvement of the conditions for learning and teaching.

These partners include but are not limited to business institutions, Non-Governmental Organisations, Teacher Formations Labour Unions, Association of School Governing Bodies and sister departments. ***With this kind of support, the future looks promising.***

We have since resolved to nurture this support and channel it to where it matters most.

Please allow me, **Madam Speaker**, to express our sincere appreciation to all institutions which have been holding our hands in the quest to improve education delivery in the province.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE OUT OF SCHOOL YOUTH

One of the key priorities of the ruling party is job creation.

To this end, the Department through the **Provincial Ephraim Mogale Bursary Scheme** is supporting ----- students who are furthering their studies in different Universities within the country. This is an effort to ensure that they are

employable at the end and that the quality of service on offer is professional and up to standard.

**We are encouraged by the decision of the Department of Basic Education to withdraw the framework which granted Funza Lushaka Bursary holders first preference in terms of placements.**

**As things stand, Madame Speaker, all the qualified unemployed teachers will receive equal opportunities when it comes to selection and appointments.**

In addition, the Department has provided opportunities for **411** out of school youth to serve as Learner Support Agencies (LSA's). Out of this number 270 are funded through the HIV & AIDS Conditional Grant, 125 are funded through USAID as part of the government to government support programme and 106 are funded by the Global Fund.

**The role of LSA's is to provide support to vulnerable learners, assist learners with homework and related care.** In addition, the Department will appoint **800** out of school youth to serve as Examination Assistants for the November/December marking session.

## **THE MPUMALANGA REGIONAL TRAINING TRUST**

Through the Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust, **414** out of school learners were exposed to job opportunities with **172** trained on SAQA registered learning programmes under Hospitality and Culinary Studies as well as Customized Training.

The other **242** learners received training on trades offered under Technical Training operation which includes construction, manufacturing, metal trades, mechanical, electrical and agricultural skills.

Another notable achievement of the MRTT was on trade testing where the entity took through **49** learners on a construction trade programme.

The institution led from the front in The Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena programme, assisting a number of schools throughout the Province with maintenance and repair projects aimed at enhancing the conditions for learning and teaching.

The Department will strengthen the MRTT to ensure that it can roll out massive skills development by appointing skilled management, revamping the hotel academy so that it can become a hotel and institution of first choice for government and people of the Province. This will in turn enhance MRTTs revenue generation strategy.

## **BUDGET ALLOCATION**

**Madam Speaker**, in his Keynote Address on the day of the opening of the Legislature, the **Hon Premier, Mr. Mandla Ndlovu** clearly stated that there are three main priorities for socio economic transformation of our country anchored on an education system, that delivers quality outcomes.

**The Hon Premier** further said that to prepare learners for a better future and better outcomes at Grade 12 level, we have to prioritise the foundation phase which is a critical phase, that is the **Early Childhood Development (ECD) Phase**. We will accelerate this building block which is a foundation for learning.



**To achieve this**, the Department has set aside, **1. 01 Billion Rands** to provide ECD services at the Grade R and other earlier levels in accordance with White Paper 5.

**11 Million Rands** have been allocated for the maintenance of ECD Centres in this financial year.

**Madam Speaker**, to support the delivery of quality education in the Province, the Department allocated **R870** million to be transferred to schools, **R 10 million** for School Fee Exemption subsidy and **R 413 Million** for LTSM.

To ensure that the Province improves the performance of learners in all grades and in the National Senior Certificate Examination Results, the Department has set aside **R25 million**.

To promote school's sports, the Department has set aside **R28 million** and for the provision of the National School Nutrition Programme **R 942 million** has been set aside.

Indeed, **Madam Speaker**, to ensure that our learners excel in Maths, Science and Technology, the Department has set aside **R 38 million** for the OR Tambo Mathematics, Science and Technology Academy and for Digital School Connectivity (Ubuhlebusile e-learning) an amount of **R126 million** has been set aside. For Teacher Development, the Department has allocated **R10 million**.

To provide compulsory Public Education in special schools in accordance with the South African Schools Act, White Paper 6 on Inclusive Education and the

Child Justice Act (CJA), No 38 of 2005, the Department has allocated **R502 million**.

To improve school infrastructure, eradicate Pit Latrines, improve the maintenance of schools, commence with the school for the deaf and blind learners and provision of mobile classrooms, **R1. 4 Billion** has been set aside.

To provide educational institutions with training and support on Life Skills, HIV and AIDS, payments to SETA, the administration of external examinations and payment of bursaries, the Department has allocated, **R445 million and for skills development, R40 million** has been allocated.

## IN CONCLUSION

I wish to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to the **Hon. Premier, Mr Mandla Ndlovu**, for granting me the responsibility to advance the course of improving the delivery of education in the Province.

My gratitude goes to my organization, the **African National Congress** and its leagues for the support and guidance extended to me and to the Department.

I am grateful to the members of the Executive Council as well as the members of the Portfolio committee for their support.

Indeed, I appreciate the guidance of the former MEC for Education, **Mr. Bonakele Majuba** for the comprehensive handover report and for taking me through the issues prevalent in the Department.

Thank you to the Head of Department, **Mrs. Lucy Moyane** and the entire staff of the Department at all levels, labour unions, associations of school governing bodies, business sector for the warm welcome.

**Madam Speaker**, please allow me to table the Policy and Budget Speech for the Mpumalanga Department of Education, Vote number 7 to the amount of **R26 Billion** and to further request this august house to grant approval for the Department to utilize this budget.

Once more, thank you for the opportunity.

**Nginyabonga.**





## Notes

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