

POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH 2026-27



18 JUNE 2026



14:15



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RIVERSIDE LEGISLATURE AND
GOVERNMENT COMPLEX.
MBOMBELA**

Ms Lindi Masina, MPL

MEC for Education

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MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



MPUMALANGA
THE PLACE OF THE RISING SUN

Life and legacy of O.R. TAMBO



THE 2026/27 POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH VOTE 7 DELIVERED BY THE MEC FOR EDUCATION, HON LL MASINA AT THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE IN THE CITY OF MBOMBELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY ON THE 18 JUNE 2026.

Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature **Hon. M Masilela**

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

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

Members of the Executive Council

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

Hon. Members of the Provincial Legislature

Our Traditional Leaders present in the house, **Kgoshi Mokoena the President of Contralesa and Chairperson of Mpumalanga Provincial House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders**

Religious Leaders

Provincial Secretary of the Governing Party, **Cde. Muzi Chirwa**

Esteemed Leadership of the Education Sector Unions

Esteemed Leadership of the Association of School Governing Bodies

Esteemed Leadership of Education Partners

Representatives from the Mpumalanga University and other Institutions of Higher Education

HOD: Education, **Mrs. Lucy Moyane**

Members of Senior Management

Distinguished Guests

Esteemed members of the Fourth Estate, the Media

Respectable Community Members who are following us through various media platforms

Sanibonani

It is an honour to rise before this House to present the 2026/27 Policy and Budget Vote no 7 for the Department of Education.

We do so at a defining moment which calls for bold action, strengthened accountability, and an unwavering commitment to improving the quality of education in our province.

Indeed, we are guided by the priorities of the 7th administration as they relate to education which are to:

- Increase access to Early Childhood Education
- Improving learner competency in Reading, Languages and Mathematics
- Enhance Grade 12 results and improve quality of passes
- Provide school infrastructure and digital learning technologies
- Ensure accountability for poor performance across the system.

At the center of all these goals is the sustainable impact to the **1.2 million** cohort of learners across the province ensuring that each one of them reaches their full potential.

Today, the thousands of learners we are speaking about are represented by a young girl, my special guest, **Lindokuhle Ndimande** from a rural village in Dullstroom, Emakhazeni Local Municipality.

Lindokuhle carries the aspirations of many rural learners who despite challenges continue to rise with resilience, hope and belief in our education system.

Lindokuhle presence here confirms our posture that we are truly determined to make education work for the people of Mpumalanga.

Hon. Speaker, I humbly request that she stands up for this August House to recognize her. **Siyabonga**

We do these guided by our 30-year constitutional imperatives to ensure that every learner learns, every teacher teaches, every school functions optimally and that the doors of learning and culture remain open wide enough not to leave anyone behind.

Our approach is intentional, deliberate, focused, and grounded in involvement of our communities to usher a learner centered education trajectory that works for the people of ***the Place of the Rising Sun***.

The Department is ensuring strict monitoring of time-on-task so that teaching and learning takes place for a full school day and unhindered.

We are mobilizing communities, stakeholders and the business sector through the **Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign** to create favourable school conditions and surroundings for safe and conducive learning and teaching spaces.

In this regard, I wish to express our profound appreciation to the MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development and Environmental Affairs, **Ms. Khethiwe Moeketsi**, for endorsing this campaign.

We are equally grateful to the MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, **Mr. Jackie Macie** and the South African Police Acting Provincial Commissioner, **Dr. Zeph Mkhwanazi**, for taking the issue of school safety into their good and safe hands.

Together with all the stakeholders we signed a declaration to create learning and teaching conditions that are safe, free from crime, drug trafficking, bullying and corporal punishment. I wish to thank everyone in the province who participated and subscribe to this pledge.



LEARNER PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Honourable Speaker, improving learner performance remains at the heart of our mandate.

Our target is to achieve a **91% pass rate** across the board with an improvement in the STEM Subjects.

We do this encouraged by the solid base of the impressive **86.55 %** pass rate achieved by the Class of 2025 in the National Senior Certificate Examination Results.

Indeed, the Class of 2025 surpassed all manner of expectations proving the resilience, growth and impactfulness of education system.

In the gallery, we invited the 2025 best learner in our Province, **Luyanda Ndlozi** as my special guest. She was also declared the best learner in quintile two schools in the whole country.

She is currently furthering her studies towards Mechatronics Engineering at the University of Cape Town with a full bursary from Telkom. ***She is our Engineer in the making.***

When we reached out to her, she cleared her schedule to honor us with her presence. Through you, Hon Speaker, I request the house to applaud her as she stands up.

Through the implementation of the 2026 Learner Improvement Plan, we declared that any school performing below **80% throughout our Province** is regarded as underperforming.

The Department has set aside **R60.7 million** to improve learner performance across the board.



UBUHLEBUZILE E-LEARNING PROGRAMME

Honourable Speaker, the digital transformation of our education system is no longer optional, it is a necessity.

We are expanding e-learning across the system, including the introduction of digital learning in Grade 10 through the provision of devices, curriculum-aligned content and connectivity.

This investment in e-learning aligns with the Department's vision and mission to enhance education through technology.

The Department continues to distribute **60 000** tablets loaded with relevant e-content and data for connectivity to **Grade 12** learners.

Equally, the Department piloted a full scale e-learning smart school project in eight schools where all learners are **using tablets from grade 8 to 12**.

The pilot has informed our decision to start providing tablets at Grade 10. This year, we will compile a comprehensive report of this pilot to inform our future trajectory.

We are grateful, Hon. Speaker, that **grade 10** learners are already receiving the **80 000 tablets** intended for use throughout their Grade 11 and 12 school years of study.

In the gallery, there is a learner from Chief Funwako Secondary School in eMjindi, in the City of Mbombela Local Municipality, **Noluthando Fina Vilankulu** who made history as the **first grade 10 learner** in the province to receive a tablet under this programme.

As we celebrate all **80,000 learners** who will benefit from this initiative before the end of July 2026, we symbolically placed the first device in her hands, trusting that she will use it as gateway to knowledge and emancipation.

What is inspiring is that **Noluthando** is also a top achiever at her school, having emerged as the best overall learner following the 2026 grade 10 results of the first term. **Noluthando** represents our shared commitment, determination, and promise that Ubuhlebezile e-learning programme seeks to achieve. Through you Honorable Speaker, I request that she stands up for this house to appreciate her. **All the best my daughter.**

We will continue to strengthen smart school initiatives, support existing e-learning programmes, and provide both online and offline digital resources to ensure equitable access, particularly in rural areas.

Our goal is free from any ambiguity and is to ensure that every learner is equipped with the skills required to thrive in a digital world

The Department has set aside **R981million** to achieve this goal.



THROUGHPUT RATE

Hon Speaker, what is more encouraging is the fact that this province does guarantee that each learner who enters our system progresses and does not drop out at an early age or is unnecessarily retained

Except for those diverting to TVET colleges after grade nine, **76.5 %** of our learners make it to grade 12 with their age cohort.

This is commendable considering goals set in the National Development Plan 2030.

In essence, we confirm that our province's throughput rate stands at **76.5%**.

Loku kusho ukuthi, izingane zethu ziqala isikole zize zifinyelele emabangeni aphezulu alungele ukuthi ziphuthule amabanga aphakeme ngesikhathi esifanele.

Kuyimpumelelo edinga ukuthi siyijabulele siwumphakathi waseMpumalanga.

The Department has targeted a throughput rate of 85% over the next five years.

To achieve this target, we will maintain our focus on strengthening school management, working closely with parents through their school governing bodies, promote functional schools and conduct regular systemic evaluations on learners and school performances.

To further improve this, the Department continues to provide social security nets such as No Fee Paying Schools, National School Nutrition Programme, Scholar Transport and State Funded Boarding Schools to name but a few.

TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

Honorable Speaker, the Department continues to invest significantly in teacher development.

Our teacher Development Programmes include ongoing training, strengthening subject content knowledge, and improving assessment practices.

Teachers are being supported through workshops, professional development programmes, and the use of Teacher Development Centres as hubs of pedagogic excellence.

In addition, there is targeted on-site support for teachers in underperforming schools to ensure that they are fully equipped to deliver quality education as expected.

We wish to take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to the education sector unions for ensuring that their members are fully capacitated and as well as their involvement in the Education Labour Relations Council.

We take pride in the quality of our teachers in our Province. This is demonstrated by their involvement in different empowerment platforms nationally and internationally.

I wish to use this opportunity to pay my respect to one of our teachers, **Mr. Thulani Sibiya**, who was honored with the National Best Teacher Award in 2025 at the occasion of the National Teaching Awards.

Mr. Sibiya is the embodiment of the caliber of teachers in our province and a true role model for generations to come.

Those who aspire to be good and capable teachers do not look further, they get their inspiration from him.

He has graced this occasion and through your indulgence Hon Speaker, I request the house to salute him.

The Department has set aside **R30 million** towards Teacher Development and appreciation Programmes.



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND THE FOUNDATIONS FOR LEARNING

Honourable Members, we are clear in our understanding that the success of our education system is built on a strong foundation.

For this reason, we continue to prioritize Early Childhood Development and foundational learning, particularly reading for meaning, language and numeracy.

The province is currently providing a subsidy of **R 24** per child per day for **22** days a month to over **83 700** children, ensuring that more young learners have access to early learning opportunities.

We are strengthening the training and upskilling of ECD practitioners through NQF-aligned qualifications, to improve the quality of teaching and learning in the early years.

We are making great strides to sustain efforts to expand access, strengthen educator capacity, and deepen early learning interventions so that every child enters school equipped with the necessary foundational skills.

This expansion of access is heightened through the Bana Pele Campaign to increase the number of registered Early Childhood Development Centres.

These investments are about quality, equity to ensure improved school readiness, expanded access to quality ECD services, and stronger foundation phase outcomes, in line with our Provincial priorities and the Medium-Term Development Plan.

Hon Speaker, we have allocated **R563 million** to advance all ECD related programmes in the current financial year.

GRADE R

Hon Speaker, the **Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA) Bill** provides for the formal recognition and phased in implementation of **Grade R** as part of the compulsory basic education system.

It is for this reason that an allocation of **R837 million** has been set aside to support the progressive realization of this provision.

As a result, we expect to see increased enrolment in Grade R for all our children irrespective of their abilities or disabilities.

MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In Mathematics, Science and Technology, we are intensifying targeted interventions, including extra classes, learner support programmes, and the use of digital platforms to enhance learning, participation and pass rates in the STEM Subjects.

We are determined to improve performance in these critical subjects as they are key to unlocking future opportunities for our learners.

To this end we are making a clarion call to the provincial community to assist us to demystify the perception that Mathematics and Physical Science are difficult subjects.

Our learners would be capable of counting only if the requisite support and motivation is enforced.

This is exemplified by **Sinenhlanhla Sikhulile Nkosi of Sitintile Secondary School in Kanyamazane**, who was crowned the National Winner of the 2026 South African Youth Water Prize.

For this achievement Sinenhlanhla will represent South Africa at the prestigious Stockholm Junior Water Prize in Sweden in September this year.

I made an effort, **Hon Speaker**, that he honors us with his presence, I therefore request this house to congratulate him as he stands up from the gallery. **Well done my Son.**

This demonstrates that quality STEM education equips learners with the skills to address real-world challenges and become future leaders in innovation.

The OR Tambo Mathematics, Science and Technology Academy at Emalahleni is being resourced to enable the Department and its partners to advance this course.

The Department set aside **R78 million** towards the attainment of this goal.

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMMES

The Department prioritizes the provisioning of the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) to alleviate poverty and enhance learning outcomes.

The programme aligns with Mpumalanga's broader goals of improving access to quality education and addressing socio-economic challenges.

This Programme is provided to **1 511 quintile 1-3 schools**, benefiting One million and twenty five thousand (**1.0025 million**) learners over **195 school days**.

Following a successful pilot programme, the Department is from this year onwards extending the provision of breakfast to all learners in quintile 1 to 3 schools.

The National School Nutrition Programme supports **5 944** food handlers, contributing to sustainable livelihood for their families.

The Department has set aside **R1,04 billion** for the success of this programme.

The Department further encourages schools to establish food gardens, promoting fresh produce and long-term food security.

In this regard, a total of **230** Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) beneficiaries were recruited to support key community-based initiatives.

These beneficiaries comprise **85 Childminders** and **145 Food Gardeners**, whose stipends is funded through the EPWP Incentive Grant and they consist of **55%** young people, **98%** women and **2%** disabled persons.

The recruitment of these beneficiaries contributes to job creation and the provision of essential services aimed at promoting early childhood development and enhancing household food security within communities.

The Department has set aside **R5,1** towards the success of this programme.

Siyaqhuba Ngempela Hon Speaker.



SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT

The 7th Administration is intensifying the eradication of unsafe and community-built schools.

We have completed in July 2025, the Godide Secondary School in Thulamahashe Circuit,

Four schools are presently under construction, namely: Shanke Secondary, Khokhovela Primary, Chayaza Secondary and Sidlamafa Secondary. These schools are expected to be completed in 2027.

Three schools commenced with construction in this financial year, namely Manyakatana Primary, Matlushe Primary and Mavimbela Primary.

Kwajelusa Primary, Hluvukani Primary, Mabarhule Secondary and Saselani Primary are in the planning and design phase.

The Department has prioritised ten (10) more schools wherein the unsafe structures will be demolished, and the schools be provided with eight (08) classrooms each.

These are Makgahlishe Primary, Matsamo Primary, Morei Primary, Legogote Primary, Chief SW Nhlapo Secondary, Mzinti Primary, Daniye Primary, Msinyane Primary, Schoemansdal Combined and Phopolo Primary.

The Department is further fixing four (04) schools, Badplaas Laerskool, Klipspruit Combined, Nelsville Primary and Hlangalezwe Primary to ensure safer learning and teaching environment.

The Department is undertaking Infrastructure projects which involve the construction of new schools in overcrowded areas, especially in fast growing towns.

Currently, four new schools are being completed and will be ready for occupation this year. These schools are Langa Secondary School in Nkomazi, Silulu Secondary School in Nkomazi, Longtom Secondary in Mashishing and Ext.24 Rockdale Primary School in Steve Tshwete.

Perdekop Secondary School in Volksrust is planned to be completed early next year while the construction of phase two of Volksrust Primary School will commence in this financial year.

Three schools are earmarked for planning and design within this financial year. These will be a primary school in White River in the City of Mbombela Local Municipality and a Primary and Secondary School in Siyanqoba at Emalahleni Local Municipality.

Overall, the Department is working around the clock to improve educational infrastructure despite financial constraints, setting the stage for enhanced learning environments.

Hon Speaker, at the beginning of this academic year, **81 schools** were damaged by storms, and the Department had to reprioritize its plan to accommodate these schools. **42** of these storm damaged schools are being fixed in this current financial year.

Hon Speaker. We can now say we know the infrastructure condition of all our **1628** schools. The Department uses the Education Facilities Management System (EFMS), a web-based platform, to assess, monitor and manage school infrastructure across the province.

This serves as the official repository for information on school facilities, immovable assets and ongoing infrastructure projects, capturing detailed data on the condition of buildings to support evidence-based planning and investment decisions.

As a dynamic system, the EFMS is continuously updated as projects are completed and new assessments are conducted, meaning figures may change over time.

The EFMS also classifies schools using a School Condition Rating Method, which evaluates infrastructure based on structural integrity, safety, functionality and compliance with Norms and Standards across all key facility components.

Based on the 2025 condition assessment, the Department has identified **61** schools classified as very poor.

To address the backlogs and school infrastructure Improvement during the current financial year, the Department has allocated **R1.9 billion**. Within this an amount of **R301 million** is specifically directed towards projects targeting schools classified for immediate attention.

It is important to note that many of these projects are implemented over multiple financial years due to their scale and complexity.

We are grateful to our implementing agencies including the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport under the stewardship of **MEC Thomo** for their support in this regard.

To ensure that learners are not exposed to unsafe or undignified learning conditions, the Department implements immediate mitigation measures whenever infrastructure risks are identified.

These measures include the provision of mobile classrooms and other temporary facilities while permanent solutions are being developed and implemented.

In addition, the Department has launched the Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign to mobilise communities, parents, alumni and local stakeholders to become the first line

of defense in protecting schools against vandalism, theft, break-ins and infrastructure damage.

The campaign also encourages volunteerism and community participation in basic school rehabilitation initiatives.

Furthermore, schools receive annual maintenance allocations, representing approximately **13%** of their operational budgets.

School Governing Bodies are encouraged to ensure that these funds are utilised for their intended purpose, namely the upkeep, preservation and maintenance of school infrastructure.

We are truly grateful to the business sector for investing their resources to improve school infrastructure and support a range of education related initiatives in the province. Their investment adds value and is highly appreciated.

The Department remains steadfast in its commitment to progressively improving learning and teaching environments, eliminate unsafe structures, eradicate infrastructure backlogs and ensure that every learner in Mpumalanga has access to safe, functional and dignified educational facilities.

One of the key challenges we are actively addressing is the provision of adequate learner furniture.

The Department acknowledges and appreciates the valuable collaboration with the **Department of Correctional Services**, whose support in refurbishing and rehabilitating existing school furniture has significantly contributed to alleviating this challenge.

To further strengthen these efforts, the Department has allocated **R92 million** towards the procurement of new school furniture.







YOUTH PROGRAMMES

Hon Speaker, June is observed as the youth month, honoring the indelible role played by young people in the struggle for liberation on the 16th of June 1976.

2026 marks the 50th anniversary commemoration of the youth uprising, a day that altered the course of history and defined our country's future.

In commemoration of Youth Month, the Department reflects with pride on the progress made thus far, while reaffirming its commitment to advancing sustainable youth empowerment initiatives.

Central to this commitment is the continued promotion of Mother Tongue-Based Bilingual Education through ongoing community engagement roadshows.

This initiative is particularly significant as it responds to the historical struggles of the youth of 1976, who advocated for the right to equitable and meaningful education, including the recognition of language as a fundamental pillar of learning and identity.

Currently, **37.2%** of the Department's workforce comprises youth, with a total of **11,537 young professionals** appointed across various positions, including teachers and school management teams.

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The Department facilitates the integration of youth development into all plans, programmes and day-to-day implementation of decisions.

We are deliberately ensuring the implementation of pro-youth programmes to add impetus in the quest of government to address unemployment, poverty and inequality.

The Department is doing everything humanly possible to promote youth entrepreneurship, support our top students with bursaries and expose the out of school youth to empowerment programmes and critical skills.

We are training out-of-school youth in accredited skills programmes to enable their participation in the economy.

Equally, we are providing the requisite space to young people to participate in learnerships and internships.



THE MPUMALANGA REGIONAL TRAINING TRUST

Hon Speaker, The Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust (MRTT) remains central to our efforts to equip the people of Mpumalanga with the skills required to participate meaningfully in the economy and contribute to the development of our province.

During the 2026/27 financial year, MRTT will focus on the following programmes to:

- Train more than **350 learners** on SAQA-accredited skills programmes,
- Empower **140 learners** through customised training,
- Place **250 learners** for coaching, mentoring, and workplace exposure,
- Enrol **160 learners** for Artisan Development, and
- Assess and trade test more than **100 learners**.

The first programme, the Hospitality and Tourism Academy, will continue to support the growth of one of Mpumalanga's most important economic sectors.

Through accredited training programmes in hospitality, culinary arts and tourism services, MRTT will help develop the workforce required to support the province's expanding tourism industry.

The second programme, Technical Training Operations, which remains at the core of MRTT's skills development offering.

This programme will continue providing training in critical artisan and occupational trades including plumbing, bricklaying, carpentry, boiler making, automotive mechanics and related skills.

The entity has also applied for additional accreditation for coded welding and arch welding and awaits responses from relevant authorities.

These programmes are designed to address skills shortages in sectors that are vital to provincial economic growth and infrastructure development.

The MRTT is hard at work renovating the Kabokweni and Ekandustria training centres to be QCTO compliant. These centres will be utilized for assessment and trade testing.

Through partnerships with SETAs, industry stakeholders, government departments and donor organisations, MRTT will leverage additional funding and workplace-based learning opportunities to maximise impact and improve employability outcomes.

We recognise that government funding alone is insufficient to meet the growing demand for skills development.

Consequently, the Board and management have been mandated to diversify revenue streams and strengthen partnerships with the private sector, development agencies and strategic investors.

This approach will improve financial sustainability while expanding access to training opportunities.

For the 2026/27 financial year, the Department has allocated an amount of **R120 million** to advance the course of MRTT programmes.

PARTNERSHIPS

Honorable Speaker, the Department is strengthening the Mpumalanga Education Development Trust (MEDT), a partnership between business, government, and civil society that adopts a **whole-district approach to schooling**.

This collaboration facilitates institutional and industry partnerships, leading to the provision of additional classrooms, eradication of pit latrines, connectivity in schools, and other initiatives.

Already, the Department has established partnerships with various organizations, including Standard Bank, SASOL, MTN, Cell C, Vodacom, Nyanda Mines, Conservation South Africa, Barberton Mines, Seriti, Rand Water Foundation, and SANRAL to name but a few.

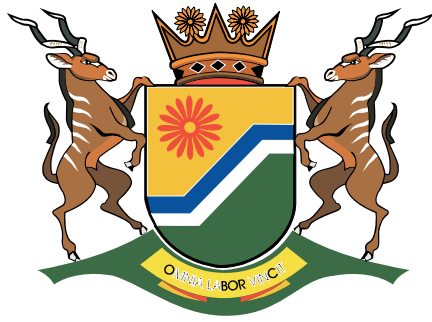
These partners support various projects including but not limited to improving learner performance, connectivity, school infrastructure construction, e-learning, Agriculture, coding, and robotics.

We are grateful for the ongoing support we are receiving from the National Education Development Trust (NET) which assists in advancing the functionality and efficiency of our districts..

The Department will in July convene an Education Business Sector Engagement to look at how best we can enforce more impactful and sustainable collaborations.

We are grateful for the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Province with the University of Mpumalanga, and we are already exploring areas for further advancement.





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A DEPARTMENT 
THAT WORKS FOR ALL 

SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Hon. Speaker, the Department continues to expand access to education for learners experiencing barriers to learning and development in public mainstream schools, aligning with the Education White Paper 6 (EWP6), the South African Schools Act (SASA), the Children's Act, and the SIAS Policy .

Currently, 125 full-service schools provide support to learners with moderate learning barriers, aiming to eliminate barriers to learning within an inclusive education system.

Learners with disabilities in Mpumalanga face ongoing challenges, despite progress in recognizing their needs.

The Department maintains **19** special schools, catering for learners requiring specialized support.

Notably, the planning for the School of the Deaf and Blind in eMalahleni Municipality is at the advanced stage. Stage two has been completed and we are soon completing stage 3 which will enable us to go to procurement. Construction is anticipated to commence in November 2026. An amount of **R100 million** has been provided for in the infrastructure budget.

This project highlights the Department's commitment to enhancing educational opportunities for learners with disabilities, aligning with broader national efforts to ensure inclusive and quality education for all.

The focus on this special school reflects the province's priorities in addressing the needs of learners with disabilities and ensuring they receive the specialized support they require.

Planning and design to provide a boarding facility in **Masinakane Special School** is also underway this financial year

The Department has set aside **R573 million** to improve delivery of education for special schools across the province.

CONCLUSION

Hon. Speaker, I wish to extend our appreciation to all stakeholders who not only believe in our collective vision but have embraced it in everything they do and say.

We are truly grateful to the Honorable members of the Portfolio Committee under the stewardship of **Hon. Thulisile Khoza** who continue to give due guidance and support in all instances.

We remain humbled by the support the Department receives from a range of stakeholders including association of school governing bodies, education sector unions, non-governmental organization, civic organisations, business sector, religious institutions and the broader community of the Place of the Rising Sun and beyond.

I further wish to extend my appreciation to all members of Senior management guided by the Head: Education, Mrs. Lucy Moyane, District Officials, Circuit Managers, Principals and educators.

We are truly indebted to the Hon Premier, **Mr. Mandla Ndlovu**, who remains the pillar of strength to us in the Department and to the people of the Province.

I thank the movement of the people, my proud organization, the African National Congress for entrusting me with this huge responsibility.

I thank my office and my family for ensuring that I am able to navigate these uncharted waters with their prayers and support.

In the words of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, ***“education is not a way to escape poverty, it is a way of fighting it.”***

Through this budget, we reaffirm our commitment to using education as the foremost tool to confront inequality and build shared emancipation for all.

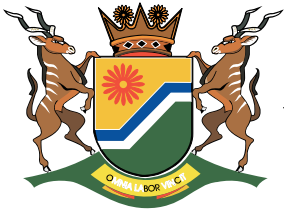
Honourable Speaker, I hereby table the 2026/27 Budget Vote 7 for the Department of Education and humbly request that this house approves the **R30,6 billion allocation** for the Department to advance the course of education delivery to the citizens of Mpumalanga Province.

R Thousands	Main Budget 2026/27
Programme	
Administration	1 847 976
Public Ordinary Schools Education	24 292 553
Independent Schools Subsidies	26 449
Public Special Schools Education	572 936
Early Childhood Development	1 399 987
Infrastructure Development	1 934 600
Examination and Education Related Services	544 939
Total	30 619 440
Economic Classification	
Compensation of Employees	23 755 726
Goods and Services	3 921 170
Total Transfers and Subsidies	2 003 033
Payments for Capital Assets	939 511
Payments for Financial Assets	-
Total	30 619 440

Ngiyabonga.

#Rhandzaxikoloxawenacampaign

#Babizebonke



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