



Northern Cape
Department of Education

2022/23 VOTE 4

BUDGET SPEECH

**Zolile Monakali
MEC for Education**

- **Tuesday, 21 June 2022**
- **Gamagara Town Hall, Kathu**
- **10h00 am**

**“ A Modern, Growing and
Successful Province”**





**SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE MEC FOR EDUCATION, MR
ZOLILE MONAKALI ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2022/23 BUDGET
VOTE 4 TO THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE,
KATHU, 21 JUNE 2022**

Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker;
Honourable Premier of our Province, Dr Zamani Saul;
Honourable Members of the Executive Council;
Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature;
Traditional Leaders Present;
The Head of the Department and senior official of Government;
Veterans of our beloved Movement;
Distinguished Guests;
Comrades and Friends
Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is my single honour to present to you, the Budget Vote 4, for the 2022/23 financial year, during a month, that is celebrated nationally and highlights the role that young people played not only in education, but in the overall liberation struggle within the country.

Madam Speaker, the resistance of 1976 not only proved that it can be done, but the struggle and sacrifice of this generation of young people has borne fruit, and not only for their generation, but for generations to come.

Therefore, we have a duty to make sure that the education system not only provides education, but is a foundation for development and opportunity, as one of the great modern-day scholars and philosophers, Noam Chomsky says, ***“Freedom without opportunity is a devil’s gift, and the refusal to provide such opportunity is criminal”***.

We present to you, this budget speech, conscious of our duty to provide and make opportunities available through the vision of a *“modern, growing and successful”* Province. Ladies and gentlemen, our system is surely making concerted efforts to reach its former heights and glory and we are very conscious of our need to make sure that we do so within the context that the ruling Party, prioritised education as one of the apex priority.

This assertion, thus implies that whatever we do, is something that was promised to the people of the Northern Cape by the people’s movement, and we will spare no effort in pursuit of that commitment.

Madam Speaker, we will spend the next 12 months, in pursuit of the improvement of our education system that seeks to bring opportunities to the people of the Northern Cape, within the context of a *“modern, growing and successful Province”*.

This simply means that the plans for this financial year will be nothing less than the creation of a developmental environment which is characterised by opportunities, for our Province broadly and for the education sector in particular.

We are going to make sure that we make the need for education a real necessity not only for learners and educators but for the ordinary man in the street too. We do so very mindful of the fact that education is the greatest socio-economic equalizer for society broadly. If we look at the fact that education not only helps produce leaders of tomorrow, but also presents opportunity for economic development through the building of schools, the provision of learner transport and various other goods and services that the Department of Education procures.

Madam Speaker, in delivering this Budget Vote, we shall briefly reflect on some of the key commitments and achievements made during the 2021/22 financial year. We are pleased to report that we have outdone ourselves over the last year and we present the progress under the theme of our vision, which is **Modern, Growing and Successful**.

The total budget appropriation for the Northern Cape Department of Education for 2022/23 financial year is R7.67 billion. Of this appropriation, R991 million is for the various Conditional Grants administered by the Department. The Budget of the Department is allocated within the following programmes:

Programme 1: Administration

The total allocation for this programme has increased from R673 million to R717 million.

Programme 2: Public Ordinary School Education

The current allocation for this financial year, is R5.5 billion, which accounts for a decrease of 0.9%.

Programme 3: Independent School Subsidies

The Province has 40 independent schools and we have increased their financial support by 8.1% to R 11.7 million.

Programme 4: Public Special School Education

The Department has allocated R182 million for this programme to support learners with special needs.

Programme 5: Early Childhood Development

The budget allocation of the ECD programme has considerably increased by 80% from R113 million in the previous year to R203 million in the current financial year.

Programme 6: Infrastructure Development

The budget allocation of this programme has increased by 8.4% to R687million.

Programme 7: Examinations and Education Related Services

The allocation for this programme has increased to R354 million, and accounts for a year-on-year increase of 10.7%.

Madam Speaker, I would be failing in my duties, if I do not express our sincere appreciation and gratitude on behalf of the whole education fraternity, to the Premier Dr. Zamani Saul and MEC Abraham Vosloo for the additional funds we have received to fill critical vacancies in our schools. This acknowledges that indeed, Education is one of the apex priorities and our Government remains committed to improve the quality of public education.

Our endeavour is to see how the Province can sustain the demand of the education system as it has been done through this intervention.

On Modernisation in Education

The Northern Cape Department of Education is well on track to modernize our Education system in schools and administratively. The use of ICT forms an integral part of our plans to modernize the Education system in the Northern Cape.

Honourable Speaker, the global pandemic has exposed our shortcomings and weaknesses within the system, hence our concerted efforts to incorporate ICT in everything we do.

On the Cyberlabs

Honourable Members, I am pleased to announce that the Department has officially opened 10 Cyberlabs in the Province, which are located at identified high schools in all five (5) Districts. This is a first of its kind and state of the art technology we are utilising in our schools. These Cyberlabs are unique as they house four zones which represent the economic drivers of the Province, namely: Mining, Agriculture, Astronomy and Solar Energy.

Learners are able to navigate various dimensions of each of these zones, via giant multi-touch high resolution screens, watch 3D animations, take virtual tours and engage with interactive content and simulations, giving them continued career guidance and stimulation for innovation and life-long learning.

On E-learning

Honourable Speaker, public private partnerships are essential for the introduction and delivery of ICT in our schools. We have set ourselves the patient target of creating “smart classrooms” over a period of time and it appears that this vision is gaining momentum and buy in from the Private Sector. We thank the generosity of all our stakeholders and partners in the private sector. This is what we mean when we say *Education Is A Societal Matter*.

In partnership with the John Taolo Gaetsewe Development Trust, 1 200 tablets with data were issued to Grade 12 learners at 12 participating schools in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District, in order to access the Pocket School Platform.

This Platform integrates real-time video lessons with an online learner management system support and provides guidance to learners struggling with subject content. This simply means that our efforts to create virtual classrooms has really taken off and very soon, we will complete the project of having “smart classrooms”.

The Department has also, through our partnership with MTN, handed over 200 tablets to Grade 12 learners of Gariep High School and Petrusville High School. The provision and utilisation of this resource provides an invaluable platform for educators to strengthen content knowledge and classroom pedagogy and, ultimately, stimulate and enhance learners grasp of especially abstract and problematic content.

The tablets come preloaded with a complete content repository of Grade 12 high value content and study guides. In addition to this, video lessons and animations have been loaded to simplify the learning experience. 16 Applications with previous question papers and exercises have also been loaded and operates with zero data costs.

Honourable Members, in addition to this, in partnership with Vodacom, we have opened a virtual classroom at Steynville High School, where educators and learners can connect virtually for online lessons and access study material.

The SABC Foundation also donated 25 computers for the Computer Laboratory at the Monwabisi High School in De Aar, where learners were struggling with outdated hard-and software to do Computer Application Technology (CAT).

The Department is in process of procuring 13,000 tablets with zero-rated data software for all Grade 12's in the Province. Grade 12 learners will undoubtedly be able to use the tablets to improve learner outcomes through revision and consolidation, any time, with or without an educator.

The Department has procured and distributed an additional 248 laptops to Mathematics, Physical Science and Maths Literacy teachers and provided them with the existing off-line content in use in the Province.

Administrative Electronic Systems

Madam Speaker, we have 556 Public Ordinary Schools right across the length and breadth of our Province. The need to understand and be up to date with their administration is essential in our quest of building an effective education system in the Province. This, thus necessitates real-time communication and access to updated school based information.

The Sector has introduced Education Management and Information System (EMIS) to serve this purpose. Our EMIS Unit continues to submit quarterly data to the Department of Basic Education for decision making. This is effected through the collation of data from schools and capturing of the data onto the provincial data warehouse.

Linked to this is the Data Driven District Initiative (DDD) Initiative, which is a tool of evidence planning in ensuring that decision makers, at various levels of the system, are provided with data of schools for strategic decision-making purposes.

To enable this, all public ordinary schools including Special Needs Education Schools have been provided with 3G dongles which receives about 3Giga Bytes of data on a monthly basis. The Department has allocated R19.6 million for the 2022/23 financial towards the strengthening of the electronic administrative systems in use within the Department.

Human Resources Management System

Honourable Speaker, the Department of Education continues to make use of the Human Resource Management System (HRMS), which was introduced in 2012. This system enables the seamless online communication with schools on a daily basis and reduce the cost of dissemination of information due to our vast geographic layout in the Province. The Department continues to identify areas for innovation and automation to improve the functionality of the system.

SA-SAMS

The South African-Schools Administration Management System (SA-SAMS) remains the preferred Schools Administration Management System in the Province and utilised by all 556 Public Ordinary Schools, including all the Special Need Education Schools (SNE) and the trend is the same for Independent schools. This is in keeping with the national trend to empower schools to automate their administrative systems.

Online Admission System

Honourable Members, we are very proud on the progress we have made with regards to our Online Admission System. We have for the very first time, introduced this system in 2019 and it has proven to be immensely successful. The Online Admission System is advancing very well and has proven to be robust and stable. Parents and Legal Guardians can now apply for school space from the comfort of their homes or visit their nearest walk-in centre to complete their application.

It needs to be noted that Online Admission System has officially closed yesterday, for the admission of the 2023 school academic year. As at 10h00 the 20th June 2022, a total of 41 853 applications were received. The Frances Baard District recorded the highest number of applications with a total of 18 578 applications, followed by the John Taolo Gaetsewe District with a total of 11 601 applications. There were 5 347 applications in the ZF Mgcawu District, 4 032 applications in the Pixley ka Seme District and 2 295 applications in the Namakwa District.

Districts will verify uploaded documents from 21 June 2022 to 29 July 2022 and the first round of placement and follow-up progress SMSs sent to parents by the 19 August 2022.

A further R12 million is budgeted this year to further customize, automate and integrate this system with the Department of Home Affairs database and Departmental Geographical Information System (GIS), in order to make the learner admissions process more user friendly.

Information Communication and Technology (ICT) related projects for the Department

Honourable Members, it is important to continuously upgrade and maintain the existing ICT infrastructure, which in the main supports our District offices and schools. We will therefore prioritise the following Information and Communication Technology (ICT) projects within this financial year which will include:

- Upgrade of the ICT infrastructure at Head Office and District Offices;
- Upgrading the Security Platform;

- Reactivating the MS Offices licenses to enable the proper use for corporate purposes and for the use of Computer Application Technology (CAT) in schools.

Modernising and improving our School Infrastructure

Honourable Members, it is very important that we create a conducive environment for quality public education, whilst equipping our schools and learners with the state-of-the-art facilities. As part of the norms and standards for school buildings, the Department has targeted Media Centres, Computer Centres, Libraries and Science Laboratories to be implemented through the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period.

The Department has further explored various modern alternative technologies in implementation of our infrastructure projects, which includes solar powered borehole pumps and treatment plants. We have revised the standard drawings and specifications for Northern Cape schools in collaboration with Department of Roads and Public Works. The utilisation of grey water forms part of these designs.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the construction of the replacement school for Khiba Middle School, in John Taolo Gaetsewe District included alternative energy solutions, which is an off-grid system, where solar panels are the main source of electricity, with a backup generator.

Although these options have a high capital cost, the operation and maintenance costs are much lower than the alternative fees and monthly electricity bills. The Khiba Middle School is a flagship project in terms of “going green”, making the school environmentally friendly.

Honourable Members, vandalism of our schools remains a concerning factor in the sector, especially during the school holidays. During the last financial year, more than 100 schools were vandalised at a cost of more than R40million. The Department is currently exploring alternative ways of upgrading security and safeguarding of schools versus the current model of repeatedly incurring expenses to fix vandalised school infrastructure.

This is a clear indication that our schools have become target areas for theft and vandalism. School communities must take ownership of our schools to guide and protect it from any form of vandalism and theft. We initiated the ***Love Your School Campaign*** in this regard to strengthen parental involvement and utilise communities to take care of our schools.

This situation has forced us to redesign the construction of our ablution facilities to be vandal proof, by placing all pipes and cisterns in lockable ducts.

On Modernising the Curriculum

Introduction of Coding and Robotics

Honourable Members, to equip learners with skills needed for a changing world, the Department is piloting Coding and Robotics in the Frances Baard and Pixley Ka Seme Districts. To date, we have been able to train 138 Grade R to 3 and Grade 7 educators on the Coding and Robotics Curriculum, to afford learners the opportunity to develop skills such as problem-solving, critical, logical and computational thinking.

To further strengthen the pilot programme, the Department will train an additional 300 Grades 4 to 6 and Grades 8 to 9 educators in 2022/23 financial year and work in collaboration with Sol Plaatje University to establish coding clubs at identified schools. The Department has set aside R4.5 million for training and the procurement of resources to strengthen the implementation of Coding and Robotics in schools.

The Three Stream Model- Vocational and Occupational Subjects In our schools

The National Development Plan states: By 2030, *“South Africans should have access to education and training of the highest quality, leading to significantly improved learning outcomes. The performance of South African learners in international standardised tests should be comparable to the performance of learners from countries at a similar level of development and with similar levels of access.”*

The implementation of the Three Stream Model, which we believe provides a differentiated approach to learners, responds specifically to the diverse needs of South Africa and the country's youth. It also responds to the skills needed for the changing world.

As a result, the Department, identified 11 Technical schools to introduce Vocational and Occupational subjects in the lower grades to strengthen the implementation of the General Education and Training Certificate (GEC) in the Northern Cape.

Entrepreneurship, Education and Employability in Schools

The E³ programme (Entrepreneurship, Education and Employability in Schools), is an initiative that inspires all learners to complete their schooling and be prepared for the world of work (Employability), to study further (Education) or to start an Enterprise (Entrepreneurship). 169 educators from Grades 5 to 8 across all Districts have already been trained on Project Based Learning as part of the implementation of the E³ programme.

Growing the Education System

Increase in learner numbers

There was an increase of 4,984 (1.49%) learners, in the current academic year as compared to the previous academic year. The total learner numbers for public ordinary schools, from Grade 1 to 12, in the Province amounts to 283,814. The steady increase in learner numbers in the Province over the last 10 years, is a clear indication that we are ensuring universal access to Education. However, meticulous planning is needed on a growth trajectory to cater for the educators and learners, especially for the rollout and provisioning of school infrastructure.

Honourable Members, over the past 10 years the Department has registered an average annual learner drop-out of 4%, ranging from Pre-Grade R to Grade 12. This percentage translates into an average of 11,000 learners across all the grades.

During 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a drop-out rate of 7% (21,415 learners) in the Northern Cape. This can be attributed to parents who decided to withdraw their children with co-morbidities from the public schooling system, because of the high risk of developing complications if they were to be infected, or fear of asymptomatic learners which might infect elders.

In 2021, the drop-out rate in the Northern Cape recorded a historic decrease to 2.8%. This is not only a drastic improvement from 2020, but also an improvement from an average of a 4% drop-out rate in the previous 10 years. Madam Speaker, we are confidently stating that our drop out rate has decreased.

The through-put rate in the Province showed a gradual improvement in numbers over the past 15 years. The decrease in learner drop-outs can, in the main be attributed to the Northern Cape Department of Education's Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign (QLTC) which includes various structures: departments, churches, NGO's, prominent people, advocating Education as a societal issue.

The QLTC programmes includes amongst others awareness around teenage pregnancies, Love Your School Campaigns, Adopt A School Campaign, working with the Department of Home Affairs securing birth certificates and IDs for learners who qualifies for grants, guardianship programmes and dignity programme.

Twinning Agreement- Namibia, //Kharas Region- Nama Language

Through the Twinning Agreement between the //Kharas Regional Council in the Republic of Namibia and the Northern Cape Provincial Government the Department has introduced Nama Language in Grade R at Johan Hein Primary School and Riemvasmaak Primary School in 2018. In strengthening the indigenous languages in the Province, we have registered 4 students from those communities with the University of Namibia and they are in their third year of studying Nama as a Home Language.

Appointment of School Management Posts

Honourable Members, the Department annually release a vacancy gazette for the filling of promotional school-based posts in order to ensure the leadership and management stability of schools. For the 2021/22 financial year, the department filled 170 substantive posts in schools.

The Department for the 2022/23 financial year will fill **337** promotional school based posts. Prior to issuing the vacancy gazette together with the Management Plan, the department will consult with the Labour Unions in the Provincial Education Labour Relations Council. The intended date of assumption of duty for the newly appointed School Management Team (SMT) Members at schools is 01 January 2023.

Appointment of Early Childhood Development (ECD) Practitioners

Honourable Members, the Northern Cape Department of Education has from this year, improved the conditions of service of Grade R practitioners by appointing them on a three year contract from 2022- 2024.

I am pleased to announce that a total of 235 Grade R practitioners, both in public schools and ECD Community based centres, have acquired either the Diploma in Grade R Teaching or a Bachelor of Education in Foundation Phase.

The Department has approved bursaries through ETDP SETA for 30 Grade R Practitioners to study B. Ed-Foundation Phase with North West University since January 2022. In the 2022/23 financial year, bursaries will be provided to 76 Grade R Practitioners to study towards a Diploma in Grade R Teaching and a Bachelor of Education with various public institutions. The partnership between the Department and Sishen Iron Ore Community Development Trust will provide additional funding to 35 Grade R practitioners to study B. Ed-FP with Rhodes University. As a Department we have also increased the stipend of Grade R practitioners.

No Fee Schools

Madam Speaker, every child matters and every child must succeed and for this to be achieved, they need to be in school, learning. As part of this ideal, we have introduced No Fee Schools, in order that our children may have no excuse not to be in school.

For the 2022/2023 financial year, 406 schools located in Quintiles 1, 2 and 3 have been declared No Fee Schools which is 74.50% of the total schools in the Northern Cape Province. This equates to 196,215 no fee learners which represents 70,07% of learners in no fee schools.

The National percentage for no fee learners in the Northern Cape Province is 61.50% as per the Revised National Poverty Distribution Table, whereby the Province has surpassed this by 8.57%.

We have availed a budget of R255.9 million towards realizing the no fee school policy objectives during the 2022/23 financial year and will be disbursed in three tranches. The allocated funding for no fee schools represents 82.41% of the total Norms and Standards funding provided towards Public Ordinary Schooling Education.

Fee Exemptions

Honourable Members, we are not oblivious to the fact that many communities and households have suffered untold hardship, unemployment and poverty during the past couple of years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore the Department of Education, has for the 2022/2023 financial year allocated an amount of R15 million towards the compensation for fee exemptions in our fee paying schools.

We anticipate to fund 112 out of the 139 fee paying schools within the Northern Cape for 34,988 learners which are either fully, partially or conditionally exempted from the payment of school fees.

On Learner Transport

The Department is in the process to finalize the learner transport tender for the Province. This process will be completed before the end of this financial year and will secure a safe and reliable learner transport service for the Department. The budget for learner transport service has increased from R165 million in the 2021/22 financial year to R170 million in the 2022/23 financial year.

This means that more learners can now benefit from the service. Honourable Members, this is significant as this is one of the mechanisms through which we secure general and universal access to education. The Department is currently transporting 25,744 learners to their respective schools on 429 routes. The total number of schools benefitting from learner transport services are 267 schools.

On the National School Nutrition Program (NSNP)

The objective of the programme is to provide nutritious meals to learners in order to improve their ability to learn. Through this programme, we are able to provide one nutritious meal to a total of 267 653 learners which is more than 85% of the total learners in the public ordinary schools.

Through this programme, we are able to provide a decent meal to 239 352 learners in no fee schools through the Conditional Grant. In an effort to improve the health of our learners 135 079 (70%) learners in grade R to 7 in all schools were dewormed.

An additional 28 301 learners in Quintile 4 to 5 schools also receive a daily meal through the equitable share. A total of R247 million is allocated for 2022/23, constituted of R225 million from the NSNP Conditional Grant and R22 million from the Equitable share allocation. A total of 1656 food handlers are contracted out of the school communities, 224 food garden initiatives and 450 suppliers are also supported. As a province, we have registered a number of milestones on the NSNP:

- Grootdrink Intermediate School obtained position 1 in the province, and 2 Nationally for the implementation of the NSNP, and
- The Z.F. Mgcawu District Office achieved position 1 in the province and position 2, nationally for the implementation of the NSNP

The Northern Cape Department of Education is continuing to pursue Public, Private Partnerships (PPP) in the implementation of the NSNP and in this regard, we mention the following initiatives:

- **Food and trees for Africa** conducted workshops at 5 clusters to prepare schools for the biennial Edu plant competition
- **Pioneer Foods** provides breakfast in 5 schools in the Z.F. Mgcawu District, on a daily basis for 5000 learners.
- **Tiger Brands Foundation** provides breakfast in 5 schools in the JTG district, on a daily basis to 5900 learners. Furthermore, 2 kitchens were built and 38 voluntary food handlers were trained.
- **Karoshhoek Solar is** funding 7 schools in the Z.F. Mgcawu District with kitchen utensils and provides breakfast to 4 schools, on a daily basis for 3000 learners.
- **NGO Feed, Uplift, Educate and Love (FUEL)** is providing the NSNP unit with technical assistance.

New infrastructure projects

The infrastructure allocation for this Early Childhood Development (ECD) Conditional Grant amounts to R5,3 million. A total of R1,79 million will be allocated for infrastructure maintenance projects at 5 ECD centres. I am pleased to announce that a new low-cost ECD centre for disabled children will be constructed to address the high demand in Douglas. The construction of this ECD Centre estimated at R5 million and will be consistent in line with the Department of Basic Education guidelines.

The construction of the following schools is in the final stages and will be opening their doors during the 2023 school academic year:

- Rederile Primary School in Frances Baard District;
- Rooirand Primary School in Frances Baard District and;
- Cillie Primary School in the ZF Mgcawu District;
- Ikhaya Primary School in the Pixley Ka Seme District;
- JJ Booysen Primary School in the Pixley Ka Seme District;
- Petrusville Primary School in the Pixley Ka Seme District;
- Dithakong High School in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District.

Honourable Members, a number of new school infrastructure projects have been allocated to Implementing Agents and are all in procurement stages. These schools are the following:

- Kimberley Primary School (English Medium School) in the Frances Baard District;
- Kuruman Secondary School in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District;
- Magojaneng Primary School in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District;

- Bankara Bodulong Primary School in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District;
- Carlton van Heerden in the ZF Mgcawu District;
- Franciscus Intermediate School in ZF Mgcawu District;
- Eureka Intermediate School in the Pixley Ka Seme District;
- Oranje Oewer Intermediate School in the ZF Mgcawu District.

It is anticipated that the construction of these schools will commence within the current 2022/23 financial year. An estimated amount of R429,5 million has been allocated over the MTEF period.

A Successful Education System

Capable and Professional Public Service (Functional Districts and Schooling System)

Honourable Members, each District Office has a pivotal role in ensuring that all learners have access to education of a progressively high quality, since district offices are the link between the provincial education department, education institutions and the public.

The Department of Basic Education has developed a policy on the organization, roles and responsibilities to improve quality of our work, through better structured district offices, guided by the District Development Model.

Attainment of Clean Audit

In the last financial year, the Department achieved an unqualified audit opinion with no matters of emphasis in the audit report. The Department is working tirelessly to address all matters raised in the audit report in order to pave the way for the attainment of a clean audit in the 2022/23 financial year. Part of the interventions include consequence management in order to step up governance and compliance with laws and regulations. In all the efforts, there will be full utilization of the Internal Audit Services in order to ensure full readiness.

Payment of service providers within 30 days

The Department's performance in relation to paying suppliers within 30 days has been improving over the past years. We recognise that this matter is critical to the survival of all SMMEs in the Province. This has resulted in a compliance rate of 98% with a total number of 17,364 payments processed in the 2021/2022 financial year. However there are still payments that have not been paid within 30 days equating to a non-compliance rate of 2% of total payments processed. The Department will continue to relentlessly address the challenges regarding this matter.

ECD Function Shift

The Early Childhood Development (ECD) Function has successfully migrated from the Department of Social Development (DSD) to the Department of Basic Education (DBE) on 01 April 2022.

As a result of this, a total of twenty six (26) officials have been transferred to the Department of Education and were orientated on the operations and protocol processes. The main focus in the 2022/23 financial year will be on reviewing and strengthening of the current systems such as registration processes through the Vangasali tool and integrating it with Education Management Information System (EMIS). To ensure quality in the ECD phase, various training initiatives will be undertaken for Grade R Practitioners on the Curriculum Framework and safety at ECD centers.

We have been working together with Department of Social Development and we recognise their contribution and continued support in successfully executing this very important mandate. Honourable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, the ECD function shift from the Department of Social Development went off smoothly.

Madam Speaker, I would have failed if I do not pause and thank my fellow Colleague in the Executive, the MEC of Social Development for her support and guidance during the migration process, ***ndicela simqhwabele, enkosi MaMpinga!***

Presidential Youth Employment Initiative (PYEI)

The Presidential Youth Employment Initiatives is one of the greatest programmes our Government has introduced. The Presidential Youth Employment Initiative which started in November 2021, continues to make a meaningful and positive impact in the lives of young people in our Province. Since its inception, a total of 6,497 young people were appointed in this project and appointed at schools where they continue to gain valuable skills and work experience.

This will position them to find employment beyond this project, either at a school or outside the sector. We do hope, that with the exposure to the education sector, young people will decide to take up or pursue careers in Education. This must be a key pillar and objective of this initiative.

We are truly grateful for the sterling work of all the participants, be it as Educator Assistants, eCadres, General Assistants, Reading Champions, Handymen, Sport Enrichment Officers and Child & Youth Care Workers. Our schools have improved for the better and we owe it to them. Honourable Members, the budget for the implementation of Phase III of the project is R185 million. The money is allocated to our Province through earmarked funding.

Partnership with SETA for Skills Development

Through this partnership, we are able to provide training through a systematic process of modifying knowledge skills and behaviour of employees.

The ETDP SETA availed funding for the training of educators in a number programmes. These training programmes will be implemented through the ETDP SETA in partnership with the University of North West, Inclusive Education South Africa and Cambridge University Press at a total cost of R3.8million.

Additional training programmes, includes the Youth oriented skills programmes such as Internships and Learnerships. An amount of R2,4 million has been allocated for this programme and responds to youth development and unemployment.

Infrastructure projects successfully completed

Honourable Members, in order to create a conducive environment for quality public education, school infrastructure remains a critical enabler in this regard. In the John Taolo Gaetsewe District:

- at Kalahari High School, an additional 10 classrooms and a large ablution block were constructed.
- at Sishen Intermediate School, a large ablution block, double ECD classroom, 5 additional classrooms and repairs and renovations were completed.
- at Rearata Primary school, 14 classrooms were completed as part of the SOUTH 32 Social and Labour Plan.

In the Namakwa District:

- at Brandvlei Primary School, the construction of 2 additional classrooms, a large ablution and a media centre has been completed.

In the Frances Baard District:

- at Kimberley Boys High the Department completed 4 additional classrooms.
- at DL Jansen Primary School, 10 additional classrooms were constructed.
- at Mooki Lobelo Primary School, 5 additional classrooms were constructed.
- at Vooruitsig Primary School, an additional 2 Classrooms completed and,

- at West End Primary School, additional 12 classrooms were completed.

In the Pixley Ka Seme District:

- a new Technical Workshop at Prieska High School were completed.

In the Z.F. Mgcawu District

- at the Kalksloot Intermediate School an additional 3 classrooms were completed.

The Department has successfully completed the construction of the following schools:

- Douglas Primary School in Pixley ka Seme;
- Greenpoint Primary School in Frances Baard and;
- Khiba Middle School in John Taolo Gaetsewe.

In addition to this, 20 schools will receive adequate electricity, water and additional sanitation in the 2022/23 financial year. There are currently **no schools** in the Northern Cape with Pit Latrines **only**; as all of these schools have been provided with either VIP toilets, EnviroLoos or Flush Toilets. However, the Department is actively demolishing all unsafe ablution structures in order to ensure basic safety and hygiene is achieved by the end of this financial year.

National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examination

The Northern Cape Department of Education continues to administer a National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examination free of any irregularities. Our Examination Unit has all the systems and mechanisms in place to ensure a credible outcome of these results.

Allow me to share with you the highlights of the 2021 NSC results in the Northern Cape. We have registered a total number of 12,726 full-time candidates who sat for the 2021 National Senior Certificate Examination. A total number of 9,089 candidates passed the Examination, obtaining an overall pass rate of 71.4%. The pass rate for 2021 has increased by 5.4%, from 66.0% to 71.4% in 2020, making the Northern Cape the most improved Province.

Honourable Members, although we recorded an improvement in the NSC results, we are still performing below the national average of 76.1%. We have developed a Matric Intervention Programme at the cost of R70million, to provide adequate support to the Class of 2022 and improve the learning outcomes to perform above the national average and these interventions include:

- Holiday Camps;
- Saturday Classes;
- Weekend Lock-in sessions;
- Psycho-social Support;
- Teacher Empowerment Clinics

Honourable Speaker, in addition to this, we convened District Education Makgotla in 4 Districts namely: ZF Mgcawu, Pixley Ka Seme, Frances Baard and John Taolo Gaetsewe. The last remaining Education Lekgotla will take place during July 2022 in Namakwa.

The objectives of these Education Makgotla in the main focussed on accountability, strategies to improve learner academic performance, improve quality and standards through a consultative process. During the Education Makgotla, underperforming high schools and underperforming subjects takes centre stage in our discussions as we chart the way forward.

Vine Academy and Model Farm

Honourable Members, on behalf of Provincial Government, the Northern Cape Department of Education in partnership with Raisins SA officially launched the Vine Academy and Model Farm at Martin Oosthuizen High School in Kakamas on the 19th of May 2022. The support and cooperation of the Department Agriculture, Land Reform, Rural Development and Environment is duly recognised and appreciated.

This initiative stems from a Memorandum of Understanding which was signed between the Northern Cape Department of Education, Raisins SA and the Martin Oosthuizen High School aimed at addressing specific challenges faced by industry, which includes low production skills levels, employment equity, scarce and critical skills, black economic empowerment and the quality of skills delivery.

At high school level, the youth of tomorrow will have increased awareness of the relevance of the agricultural sector, with a concerted effort to raise the profile of the agri-sector to present career opportunities for the youth.

The model farm would provide learners with an ideal opportunity to connect physical with farming activities. The Academy would offer an opportunity for those learners that cannot attend tertiary education, to attend and prepare themselves through the Academy.

School Safety

The education sector's approach to school safety is aligned with the National Development Plan (NDP), Chapter 12: **Building safer communities** and the Medium Term Strategic Framework: *"All people in South Africa are protected and feel safe"*.

Honourable Members, my view is that schools are a microcosm of society and are a reflection of the communities. Violence and bullying in the home or community negatively impacts schools, especially where there is a prevalence of gender-based violence, crime, child abuse, alcohol and drug abuse in the community.

The Department envisages to have safe educational institutions which function in a caring and crime-free environment. In order to fulfill this ideal, the Department employs the following three-phased strategy to ensure that schools are empowered to deal effectively with incidents that undermine the safety of learners and staff members at schools:

- **Prevention:** Seeks to empower schools to put measures in place so as to prevent as well as manage incidents that pose a threat to the safety of learners and educators.
- **Response:** Schools are assisted to prepare for any type of emergency so as to minimize its impact and resultant confusion by conducting Emergency readiness planning; Emergency drills and Evacuation procedures; Counselling and support.
- **Recovery:** Seeks to integrate departmental resources when incidents that pose a threat to safety occur so as to prevent loss of life and property.

In conclusion, I dedicate this budget speech to all the heroes and heroines of the struggle who gave up their lives so that the lives of the current generation of youth are improved. I also take this time to remember the Youth of 1976 under the leadership of the ANC for their determination to fight for what is their right.

Furthermore, we remember the many brave educators and support staff who selflessly and continuously face challenges during this pandemic in order to ensure that teaching and learning continues. We convey our most heartfelt condolence to these families of the Educators, Support Staff and Learners who have lost their loved ones.

I take this time to bow to my political home, the ANC for the confidence they have shown in me by putting me in charge of this important portfolio. I also thank our Honourable Premier, Dr. Zamani Saul and my colleagues in the Executive Council for their continuous guidance and support.

I also take the opportunity to thank the Provincial Legislature and in particular, the Portfolio Committee for their oversight responsibility and constructive engagements in the execution of our mandate.

I thank all the SGB Associations and Unions who operate within the education sector for their outstanding role in enabling the Northern Cape Department of Education to deliver quality learning and teaching in the Province.

I give special thanks to Ministerial Office, the Head of the Department and the Senior Management for their commitment and leadership towards the noble, but most important cause of Education.

Most importantly, I want to thank my family, in particular my wife, whom is amongst the guests seated here today, and the many people who continue to wish us well and pray for us in our work as the Executive, for their unwavering support, without which we would not be able to manage our portfolios.

Finally, I wish to reiterate the words by Noam Chomsky, that “***freedom without opportunity is a devil’s gift, and the refusal to provide such opportunity is criminal***”. We have a collective responsibility to provide the next generation with the opportunities that will ensure that their freedoms are meaningful and not denied, so that they realise a modern, growing and successful society.

I thank you!

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