



Mr Bonakele Majuba
MEC for Education

2020

Policy & Budget Speech

23 June 2020



education
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
SOUTH AFRICA



COMMUNITY RADIO
STATIONS



2020/21 Policy and Budget Speech to be delivered virtually by the MEC for Education, Mr Bonakele Majuba on 23 June 2020

Honourable Speaker, **Mrs. Busisiwe Shiba**,

Honourable Premier, **Mrs. Refilwe Mtshweni – Tsipane**,

Honourable Deputy Speaker, **Mr. Vusumuzi Mkhathshwa**,

Honourable Fana Mlombo, Chief Whip of the Majority Party,

Honourable Members of the Legislature,

Members of the Portfolio Committee on Education, Culture, Sport and Recreation
under the stewardship of **Honourable Nompumelelo Hlope**,

Members of the Executive Council,

Chairpersons of the House of Traditional Leaders, Inkhosi Sandile Ngomane,

Acting Chair of the African National Congress – **Mr. Mandla Ndlovu** and all other
leaders of the Ruling Party and the Alliance partners present,

Provincial Chairperson of the SACP – **Mr. Lucky Mbuyane**,

Leadership of all Political Parties represented in this House,

Leadership of the Moral Regeneration Movement and faith based organisations,

Education Sector Unions,

Leadership of the Associations of School Governing Bodies,

Representatives from the Business Community,

Director General, **Mrs Sindi Xulu**,

Acting Head: Education, **Mr. JR Nkosi** and Officials of the Department,

Learners and Students,

Representatives from the Media,

Distinguished Guests and

Members of the Community following us on various Media platforms,

Sanibonani

Madam Speaker, we traversed into the 2020/21 financial year being encouraged by the outcome of the 2019 Grade 12 results which is presented by a number of first times:

It was for the first time that the Mpumalanga Department of Education recorded an outcome of Grade 12 Examination results within the range of 80% pass rate bracket since the dawn of democracy and the amalgamation of education departments into one basic non-racial schooling system.

Furthermore, it was for the first time that the Department succeeded to register **14 228** learners who met bachelor's degree admission requirements which translate into **32,7%** of those **who wrote**.

Equally, we are encouraged that for ten years in succession, the Department managed to institute an incident free, credible and efficient National Senior Certificate examination processes.

Madame Speaker, we were also over the moon when Mpumalanga Teachers flew the provincial flag high at the occasion of the National Teaching Awards held on 16 February 2020, Gauteng Province.

Mpumalanga Province was placed in six out of the 11 categories and scooped four position ones.

- Excellence in Special Needs Teaching; **Catarina Engelbrecht**,
- Excellence in Teaching Natural Science, **Ms Mthombeni Mecia**,
- Excellence in ICT Enhanced Technology, Ms **Louise Fullard** and
- ife Time Achievement Award, **Mr Jacobus Johannes Du Plessis VanRensburg**.



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This proved that we have the best of best in our province who can outshine the rest in the country.

How I wish that they were here so that this legislature could congratulate them.

These are great achievements that need to be appreciated at all times and be properly recorded.

We wish to take this time to extend our profound appreciation to everyone from our officials, the members of the security cluster, teachers and learners themselves for making this possible and for reclaiming the good image of our Province- ***the Place of the Raising Sun.***

These outcomes were heralded with greater jubilation from all corners of the province and the country.

The Class of 2019 restored our pride as the people in the province of the rising sun and our desire to do more for the province and sustain the new trajectory of success which has been renewed with great vigour.

It is in this context that the plan for 2020/21 focused mainly on tripling our efforts to inculcate a culture of reading for meaning in the lower grades, increasing the numbers of learners who excel in numeracy and literacy in Grades 3, 6 & 9, decreasing the number of underperforming schools and creating a conducive environment for teaching and learning.

All these efforts find expression in the Strategic Framework for Schooling 2030, Mpumalanga Vision 2030, The African Union: Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

These efforts are intended to ensure that we usher in an action oriented epoch and accelerate the provision of quality education, overcome barriers

to learning and to provide wide ranging opportunities for children, especially those of the working class, the downtrodden and the poor.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Madame Speaker, in this financial year, the Department planned to continue its endeavour to professionalise the **Early Childhood Development** (ECD) sector by enrolling ECD practitioners with Institutions of Higher Education to study towards the Diploma in Grade R teaching at NQF Level 6.

Furthermore, practitioners who complete their diploma are translated into fully qualified professional teachers at Post Level 1 terms of Employment of Educators Act of 1994 (EEA of 1994).

Early Childhood Development is universally recognized as the foundation for success in future learning and if implemented to the latter it may serve as a solid cornerstone for academic success of learners.

Such a strong and efficient ECD bedrock improves the efficiency of the schooling system, reduce repetition, drop-out rates, improves completion rates and achievement, especially for the previously disadvantaged and marginalised learners.

The National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 target of ensuring compulsory two years of preschool education for children and the migration process of ECD function is en-route to fruition.

To improve all ECD related programmes the Department has set aside **R416 241million**.



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IMPROVEMENT OF LEARNER PERFORMANCE

Madame Speaker, the National Development Plan clearly sets targets for the level of Grade 12 results that must be achieved by 2030.

It states that between 80 and 90 percent of all learners who enter the education system should complete 12 years of education with at least an 80 percent successful pass to exit the system.

The Department is pulling above its weight to realise these target before the said timelines.

To this end, the Department extended the **1 + 4** programme to include grades 4 -12 and increased the number of learners who take and pass Mathematics and Physical Sciences.

The **OR Tambo Mathematics, Science and Technology Academy** remains our beacon of hope to advance this course.

To improve the intake and pass rate of Mathematics and Physical Sciences within the province, the Department has set aside **R57 million** to drive this initiative.

In addition, the Department planned to ensure that textbooks and stationery is provided to all learners at all times. The challenge that we face in this regard is poor retrieval of textbooks at schools.

To ensure that each of our learners has the requisite textbook and stationery for learning, the Department has allocated **R300 million** to procure Learning Teaching Support Materials.

Madame Speaker, the education sector is fast embracing technology and digitisation in the teaching and learning experience and to that effect the sector has started with the processes of digitising textbooks and reading books.

In the first two years of the MTSF, rural and multi-graded schools will be provided with e-textbooks.

Coding and Robotics will then form part of the STEM subjects in order to align learners to skills of the changing world.

The Department is exploring possibilities of expanding access to e-textbooks to mitigate the challenge of textbook retrieval and to realise the over-arching objective of a textbook for every learner in each subject.

Madame Speaker, the implementation of the coding and robotics curriculum will be piloted in **10** primary schools focusing on Gr. R - 3 and in **100** schools for senior phase grade starting from the 2021.

In keeping to the norm of collaboration of purpose, the Department will through the grant from the ETDP SETA train **300** curriculum support staff on Coding and Robotics.

The Department further planned to work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to improve reading proficiency in all schools and to ensure that learners are able to compete with their counterparts in other parts of the world.

In this regard, every effort will be in place to:

- Strengthen school management and promote functional schools;
- Conduct systemic evaluation on learners and school performance;
- Provide schools with appropriate and adequate infrastructure;
- Strengthen the implementation of pro - poor policies in order to retain affected learners with regard to the implementation of **No- Fee - Schools**, National School Nutrition Programme and scholar transport.
- Establish multifaceted work streams with sister departments to address the social ills : and
- Increase participation in curriculum enrichment programmes

To improve learner performance, particularly in grade 12, the Department has set aside **R 44 million**.

In line with the objectives of ensuring that deserving **915 533** learners in **1564** benefit from the **National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP)**, the Department set aside **R 734 414 million**.

It is also encouraging to report that there are **60 629** learners who are beneficiaries of the scholar transport programme which is implemented on our behalf by the Department of Public Works Roads and Transport.



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND BURSARY LEARNER SUPPORT

Madame Speaker, not only did the Department support learners to obtain a pass requirement for University entrance but it further provided out of school youth with post school funding to enable them to pursue studies in critical and scarce skills as stated in the Human Resource Development Strategy and the Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Programme.

There is a total of **2700 students** and employees who are furthering their studies in different universities within the country compliment of the Government financial support offered through the Mpumalanga Department of Education.

In addition, there are **370** students who are furthering their studies in the Federal Republic of Russia and **20** of these students will be graduating in Medicine and Engineering by the **end of July 2020**.

The Department equally managed to facilitate the placement of **619** graduates in respective provincial Departments on internship and learnership programmes to enable the youth of the Province to a competitive advantage when entering the job market.

To this end an allocation of **R205 million** has been set aside.

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE IMPROVEMENT

The Department further planned to intensify its ongoing induction of school governing bodies on their roles and responsibilities to enhance school governance. In this regard the Department allocated **R5 million**.



We will throughout this financial year work closely with school governing bodies to ensure the improvement of school surroundings, improvement of security measures to inculcate a culture of accountability at that level.

Issues relating to the maintenance of schools, reduction of dropout rates, drug trafficking by learners and monitoring the use of the allocated resources for the targeted purpose will be high on the agenda in our engagements.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Madame Speaker, the Department will further provide the requisite resources to schools serving learners with special educational needs as set out in Goal 26 of the Action plan 2019 to 2024 Towards Schooling 2030.

To ensure that special needs education is enhanced and that no child is left behind, the Department has allocated **R43 529 million** to deliver stimulation programmes to learners with severe and profound intellectual disabilities.

We must say that we are encouraged and pleased with the performance of these Special Schools who go an extra mile and rise above the expected norm.

Platorand Special School recorded a series of milestones last year:

Winning a recording deal from National Music Choral Award under the Motsepe Foundation.

As if that was not enough, an educator from this school, **Ms Engelbrecht** obtained **1st position** in the category "***Excellence in Special Needs & Inclusive Education***" at the National Teaching Awards and was awarded with a brand new car and a number of valuables.

To add a cherry on top, the Principal of Platorand Special School, Mr Matshika Evarance, was one of the **25** Principals that were delegated by the Department of Basic Education to visit Shanghai in China to research about Education Management and Leadership in China following the astute leadership displayed by the school.

This is encouraging and confirms that these special schools are able to rise to the occasion if given the prerequisite support.

We also wish to state that the Department regrets the development that took place at **Masinakane Special School** where parents at their own accord and against the advice of the department organised accommodation which in turn compromised the safety of the learners. The Department is working around the clock to find a working, suitable and lasting arrangement for these learners.

We wish that our communities can appreciate that we must at all times act in accordance to the laws that govern education in our country.

The Department has allocated **R436 million 685 thousand** to provide education in **18** Special Schools in the Province.



INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT

School infrastructure is important in supporting education delivery and to create an atmosphere for effective teaching and learning.

Notwithstanding the gains made in improving school infrastructure, there is still a serious backlog.

The Department has developed and costed a its backlog strategy, however, it is not able to fund it adequately.

It is in this context that we call for more business partners to join hands with the Department to address this backlog. In the same token, we appreciate all the partners that are already supporting the Department in this regard.

There is still more to be achieved to realise the 2020-2025 priorities that include:

- Establishing Technical Secondary Schools in each circuit and resourcing these.
- Construction of the school for the deaf and blind.
- Construction of specialised ECD classrooms in Public Ordinary Schools.

Madame Speaker, the eradication of Pit Latrines and accelerating the maintenance of existing school infrastructure in order to create a conducive teaching and learning environment remains top in all our endeavours.

To date, the Department has been able to provide sanitation infrastructure to **980** schools. Out of the **980**, **122** schools that had plain pit latrines as their only form of sanitation infrastructure.

There are **191** schools with plain pit toilets as part of their sanitation infrastructure. These are being attended to from this financial year and are envisaged to be completed by **2021/22** financial year.

It is prudent to note that the Department had to reprioritise its funding from New Capital Projects which include the **Fast Growing Towns** towards programmes which will promote hygiene and safety in keeping to the measures of addressing COVID -19.

To achieve the implementation of all school infrastructure related programmes, the Department has set aside **R1 .2 billion**

ACCELERATING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

The upskilling of our youth in the province remains paramount and is finding tract in line with the dictates of the Mpumalanga Skills Development Programme.

Through the MRTT, the Department is able to provide technical skills, hospitality and tourism to out of school youth.

An amount of **R104 million** has been set aside to achieve this.







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DEPARTMENT: EDUCATION
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Contact us on these platforms:

DIAL-A-TUTOR PROGRAMME

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EXAMINATION HELP DESK

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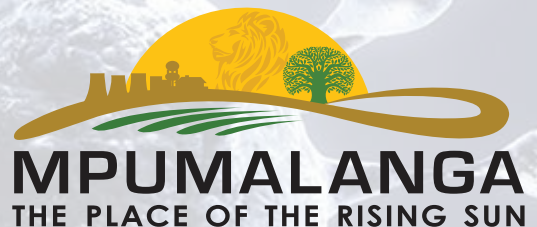
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FAKE NEWS**

The circulation of Fake News is unlawful



Every thing humanly possible will be done by the Department to attend to your inquiry.

CORONA VIRUS

The advent of the Corona Virus pandemic posed serious challenges and threats to the education sector in the Province and in the country in general.

To mitigate against the risks of COVID-19, the Department developed a COVID-19 implementation plan with an overarching objective to protect and save the lives of all role players in the education sector and to salvage the 2020 academic year.

The plan which was a product of broad consultation with stakeholders enabled the Department to put measures in place that are in keeping to the regulations of the lock down informed by the objective stated above.

It focused on curriculum recovery and provisioning of basic infrastructure services such as water and improving sanitation infrastructure in schools, including providing basic hygiene and safety resources.

Key in the plan was deep cleaning of schools and offices, orientation and screening of officials, teachers and learners in schools.

The Department adopted a staggered approach towards the return of learners and teachers to schools to ensure safety and adherence to health protocols. This started with Grade 7 and 12 and we can confirm that it was an encouraging success.

The Department is supported by the Department of Health to ensure compliance with COVID-19 regulations and provide guidelines to deal with learners, teaching and non-teaching staff with comorbidities and those who are 60 years old and above.



Madame Speaker, the Mpumalanga Department of Education is highly concerned by the spate of burglaries that happened in our schools since the declaration of the national lockdown and seem to continue.

Since the lockdown, **153** schools have been broken into and valuable property to the value of millions stolen or damaged as a result of this crime.

It is deeply worrying that these burglaries have now taken a bad turn leading to the shooting and murdering of innocent lives.

On Friday last week, we woke up to the sad news of the break in and fatal shooting of a security guard in Mthayiza Primary School in the City of Mbombela. This was a callous and cold blooded act of murder that should not be allowed in any society.

Madame Speaker, let me send our condolences to the Mgwenya family for the loss of their loved one who was sadly killed under a barrage of bullets. We reiterate that no person deserves to be killed like that.

As a Department, we condemn this cowardly act in the strongest terms and we urge our communities to work hand in glove with the Department and the South African Police Services to bring the perpetrators of these deeds to book.

PRIVATE PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP

The Department continues to strengthen its relationship with stakeholders to ensure collaborative implementation in accelerating provision of quality education and skills for the changing world.

The NDP provides a platform for building new partnerships that involve government, the private sector, labour and civil society.



Through the Mpumalanga Education Development Trust, the Department seeks to take advantage of the private-public partnership in education delivery.

The Department takes this opportunity to express its gratitude to all the private companies who have provided financial support or any support in kind towards the establishment of school infrastructure, the improvement of learner performance and the provision of quality education in the province.

We are really indebted to their benevolence and their patriotic gesture of ploughing back to the communities through their Corporate Social Investment programmes.

We therefore reiterate our appeal to all our corporate partners to continue with the good work to support us in our quest to deliver education in the province.

CONCLUSION

The delivery of quality education remains a paramount pillar in the fight against poverty, unemployment and inequality and as a Department we are geared to do the utmost best in realizing our educational goals.

We concur that there are challenges here and there but we are steadfast in our resolve to collaborate with our stakeholders to realize our goal of providing quality education to all.

We therefore request to work side by side with us, to put our shoulder to wheel to educate, equip our youth with skills and to grow and develop our province.



We are alive to the unprecedented challenges brought about by COVID 19 pandemic and its implications.

These developments necessitated the need to work together as never before.

We therefore have to navigate and reconcile our needs to excel in education delivery as well as save lives as we minimize the risks of spreading the virus.

I therefore wish to appeal to all our stakeholders and the community to join hands with the Department for the sake of our province and the future of our children.

It has long dawned on us that education is everybody's business, hence as a Department we are dependent on communities and all our stakeholders to make a success of everything. Let us work together on this and we will all be conquerors.

Madame Speaker, allow me to appreciate the leadership and support that we receive from the Premier of the Province, Honourable Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane on an ongoing basis.

We really appreciate your guidance, insight and counsel Hon. Premier. Thank you for entrusting us with this noble responsibility of delivering education to the province.

Let me also appreciate the leadership of the ruling Party, the African National Congress for deploying us in this crucial portfolio that largely determines the developmental capabilities of a nation or a society.

We really appreciate your vote of confidence and the support you have given to enabling us to take the baton of education delivery forward.

I also wish to take my hat off for the Members of the Portfolio Committee on Education, Culture, Sport and Recreation and the leadership of **Honourable Nompumelelo Hlope** for the support and guidance provided to the Department at large.

I also extend my gratitude to the South African Communist Party for continued support.

Madame Speaker, allow us to appreciate the support we continue to receive from all the stakeholders since we embarked on this educational delivery journey.

Last but not least, let me take a bow to our teachers, officials, parents, learners, civil society and business for working hand in hand with us even during trying times as we all seek binding solutions to our challenges in the education sector.

At this time, we are reminded that where there is a will there is a way.

Let us all unite in this common goal of delivering education to our people.

Madame Speaker, allow me to **table vote 07** to request that the provincial legislature grants approval for the Department to allocate **23 Billion 497 Million 519 thousand Rand Budget** for the 2020/21 financial year towards to improvement of education delivery in the Province.

I thank you.



DIAL-A-TUTOR PROGRAMME



087 223 3033



The Dial a Tutor Programme is an effort to bring the classroom situation in the comfort and secured home environment of our learners and to unlock challenges about subject content.

Learners should dial **087 223 3033** from Monday to Friday between 09H00 and 15H00

The call to this number is at no charge to the learner even if they use their cell phones to dial.

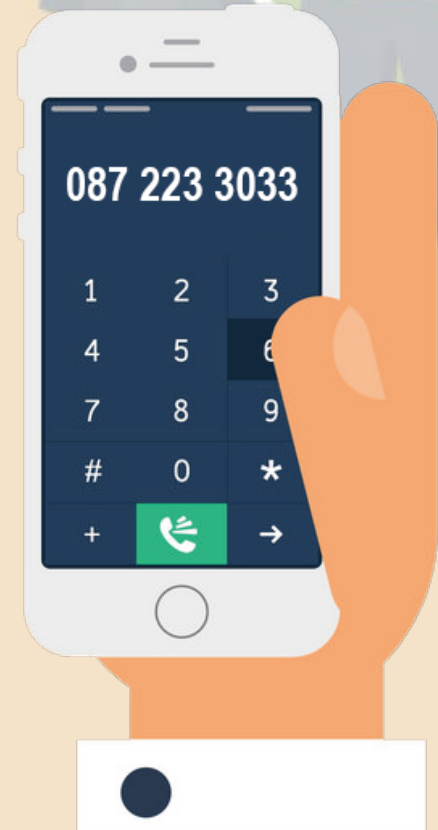
Whenever they call the system terminates the call automatically and initiate a call back immediately.

The learner is then guided on options to choose with regards to grade.

The options will eventually lead to the relevant subject specialist (Tutor) who will engage with the learner and assist accordingly.

The Department encourages learners from the GET and FET bands to take advantage of this intervention platform and further requests parents and guardians to support their children during this time.

**We grow South Africa
Together.**



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