



North West Provincial Legislature Office

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NW Provincial Legislature, Unit 1, Mmabatho

Debate Budget – Education Hon. CJ Steyl 22 July 2025

Honourable Speaker,

If we are to narrow the inequality gap, eradicate poverty, and create a prosperous society in North West, then quality basic education forms the cornerstone of realising this dream.

Regrettably, the Department of Education's efforts are being hamstrung by the financial constraints we suffer today.

This department requires far more funding than the R22 billion it receives.

Honourable Speaker,

The fruits of Jacob Zuma's Nine Wasted Years through state capture are today stunting the delivery of quality basic education.

The compounding effect of this means that many learners will not be able to access the resources and education they need to capacitate them for adult life in a knowledge-based economy.

Honourable Speaker,

It is not only the negative financial outlook that hampers the delivery of quality education.

The Auditor-General, in the previous financial year, found a lack of leadership as the root cause of both financial and performance mismanagement.

This culture of impunity was created by the rotational appointments of acting HODs.

The AG further identified that a leadership, skills, and capacity shortage within the Supply Chain Management Unit contributed to R2 billion in irregular expenditure, while an additional R151 million was incurred in unauthorised expenditure.

These matters have not been investigated, and no consequence management has been facilitated to date.

This is largely due to the delay in the appointment of a substantive HOD.

Honourable Speaker,

Despite a three-month delay by Premier Lazarus Mokgosi on his own commitment to appoint a substantive HOD, we are encouraged that this appointment has been facilitated.

Superintendent-General Lengane Bogatso has his work cut out for him.

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Critically, he will now have to ensure that investigations into unresolved irregular and unauthorised expenditure incurred during prior financial years are resolved and that consequent management follows.

In addition, Superintendent-General Bogatso must clean up supply chain management and appoint a strong team that will eradicate fraud and corruption towards applying every available cent to improve infrastructure and education outcomes.

MEC Viola Motsumi must support these cleanup efforts.

South Africans are tired of redeployments and promises of accountability.

They want action against perpetrators who compromise their rights.

The DA agrees. We want to see action. We want to see improvement. And we definitely want to see improved education outcomes.

Honourable Speaker,

The matric pass rate places the North West as the fourth best performing province.

An 87.5% matric pass rate is encouraging, however, MEC Motsumi should not just be an MEC for matriculants.

The DA would like to see North West become the top performing province, not only on a pass-rate metric, but also on a qualitative metric where we see matriculants increasingly pass in Mathematics, Science, Technology and Economics.

We must support the leaders of tomorrow. Not only to lead this government, but also to lead in innovation, in technology, and in managing a complex and preposterously diversified economy.

Honourable Speaker,

If we were to look at the infrastructure to support such a noble cause, then we would have a very big problem.

Many science and computer laboratories at schools throughout the province lack the necessary equipment and resources to support practical learning.

This is an area that requires immediate focus.

In addition, with Grade-R now compulsory, many schools have been forced to accommodate Grade-R classes yet lack the specially built facilities.

A dedicated, funded plan must be put in place over the medium-term expenditure framework to build Grade-R facilities at every school.

The National School Nutrition programme must be revamped.

Samp and beans and pap and milk are not the only suitable meals for children.

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MEC Viola Motsumi indicated in this House that the school nutrition programme complies with the requirements set by the Department of Health.

Unfortunately, this is not true.

The regulations also require meals to regularly include a meat protein as well as fresh fruit and vegetables daily, which should include a green and a red or yellow vegetable or fruit.

The implementation of the school nutrition programme must be improved through effective monitoring.

Food preparation facilities must also be improved to ensure food safety, especially as we increasingly find learners taking ill due to consuming contaminated food.

Honourable Speaker,

It is important that the entire education outcome value chain is recognised for its crucial function in building a successful and prosperous country.

This House debated that the scholar transport function should be transferred from the Department of Transport Management to Education.

It was undertaken by this house that the Executive Council will conduct a study towards facilitating such a transfer. There were no objections.

We now need to be informed on where this process is.

Let it not be said that the Seventh Administration leaves a legacy worse than the Sixth.

Honourable Speaker,

The politicisation of School Governing Bodies and School Management is causing avoidable misery for learners.

We are inundated by accusations and counter-accusations of fraud and theft of school funds by either school principals or SGB chairpersons.

This culture often spills out, implicating Councillors.

It is a mess education can do without.

I am yet to see such a dispute concern itself with improving infrastructure, expanding access to resources, and improving learning.

It is evident that these disputes mostly concern themselves with access to resources, as little as they are, and with accessing power while children suffer.

MEC Motsumi: Improved stakeholder engagement and effective monitoring of SGBs and School Management is crucial.

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With these conditions, the DA will support the budget for the Department of Education for the 2025/26 financial year.

We will closely monitor whether the concerns raised here are being addressed.

Let's fix education so that we can secure a better future.

Thank you.

End.

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