



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

BUDGET SPEECH

BUDGET SPEECH, VOTE 3, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DELIVERED BY LIMPOPO MEC FOR EDUCATION MS. MAVHUNGU LERULE-RAMAKHANYA ON 14 MARCH 2024 AT THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE, POLOKWANE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

Honourable Speaker

Deputy Speaker

Honourable Premier

Honourable colleagues in the Executive Council

Members of the Provincial Legislature

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee

Chair of Chairs

Leadership of the African National Congress

Leaders of the Opposition Parties

Royal Leaders

Religious Leaders

Stakeholders in Education (SGB Associations and UNIONS)

LDoE Acting Head of Department and other Heads of Departments Present

Partners from the Education Sector

Distinguished Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Ndi Matsheloni, Avuxeni, Thobela, Good Morning!!

Let me begin by heartily appreciating this opportunity, given to us to deliver Budget Vote 3, of the Limpopo Department of Education. It is biblically written in the book of Genesis 1 verse 3 and 4, where God the Almighty said: **“Let there be light” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from darkness”** Honourable Speaker, It is also important that I give a glimpse of the remarkable 30 years of excellent service delivery since the dawn of Democracy. We are from a dark era where accountability was non-existent and the black majority had no voice. We finally have light, the light that led us to deliver quality basic education for the past 3 decades without fail. Hence

i am standing before you this morning beaming with fulfilment as I give an account of the successes we have recorded in the past financial year..

Limpopo is today counted amongst the best because the light is shining on us. It is the light of democracy that led us to prioritize school infrastructure to ensure that our children have proper and dignified shelter over their heads. We are today boasting over a million children in the classroom compared to the low numbers we counted in the past. Absenteeism is a thing of the past in our quantile 1-3 schools because every child has access to nutritional meals. Breakfast in the morning for Primary learners, something that they hardly had in the past.

The light continues to shine for a learner from Gogogo in the rural parts of Venda and Mahlathi in the Eastern side of Mopani they have gadgets and are exposed to Fourth industrial revolution/E-learning. The promise of equal education for all was not a talk-shop but a vision realized. There is indeed light, the Darkness that separated rural and urban learners is No more. At the dawn of democracy, we promised free Basic Education for all and because of the light, our learners are enjoying the fruits

of the struggle waged by our forebears during the dark days of apartheid. Who ever imagined that a rural community of Kgohloane in Moletjie in Capricorn North could one day boost the state of art school? The Badimong Community has one of the best facilities, Mphetsebe Secondary School recently completed by this caring government, a testimony that where there is light, there is life. All intervention has seen a rise in the number of rural learners who obtained Bachelor passes in Matric last year.

In his last State of the Nation address for the 6th administration, his excellency President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa presented to us Tintswalo, a young girl who was born and raised by the democratic government. I must indicate that as the Department of Education in the Province, we were the first to receive Tintswalo as she walked into the classroom, barefooted but hungry for success. We embraced and nurtured her in her 12-year journey filled with challenges and a lot of fun. We never gave up on her, and 30 years into democracy, we are narrating a success story of a young black child.

Honourable Speaker, let me take this opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved and the challenges we faced in the 2023/2024 academic journey to adopt steps that will enable us to improve and deliver on our mandate. Let me first start by acknowledging successes and achievements we made since the last budget vote speech.

Reading with understanding

Honourable Speaker, in order to make reading enjoyable, we have created Reading Corners in all our primary schools in the Province. The Reading Corners are used as enrichment centres for learners who struggle to read with understanding. We also provided **45 431** Readers in English, Sepedi, Isizulu, Isindebele to primary schools. We have introduced digitisation (Reading Assistive Technologies) and e-Books to enhance reading capabilities to learners with reading problems.

Honourable Speaker, I've also launched Reading Clubs in Collaboration with MEC for Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and other strategic partners like AVBOB,

UNICEF, NECT and Room to Read etc, in several Districts in compliance with the President's call to mobilise every citizen to read for pleasure. Honourable Nakedi Kekana will remember vividly how our learners from Siyandhani Primary School were beaming with pride as they read some of the books delivered at the launch. I also took the same initiative to Nzhelele as a way of empowering and equipping our children with reading material. We will continue reviewing the impact made by these reading clubs quarterly to check their effectiveness.

Language enrichment activities have proven to improve learners' cognitive and literacy levels. We are proud **honourable members and distinguished guests**, to announce that a learner from Capricorn North

District, Bochum East Circuit, Dendron Primary School by the name of **Lesedi Seemane** was crowned 2023 Africa Spelling Bee Champion. The 13-year-old outsmarted her peers in a continental competition held in Uganda in December 2023

2023 NSC Performance

Honourable Speaker, the release of 2023 National Senior Certificate results provided context in which the class of 2021 wrote the National Senior Certificate examinations. Over the years, our education system has demonstrated resilience and determination in the face of numerous challenges. Through concerted efforts and strategic interventions, we have witnessed a significant surge in the academic achievement of our learners across the system.

We are seeing a significant improvement across all grades and this will definitely ensure that our matric pass rate does not decline.

Honourable Speaker, among others, the strategies that we employed in the 2023 academic year is the Rapid Response Intervention. The intervention assisted us to strengthen and internalise the intervention to all the circuits in the 10 districts, we implemented a rapid response intervention, assisting underperforming learners in particular. This intervention was implemented in term 2 and 3 coupled with Grade 12 Enrichment Classes in all Education Districts during spring school

holidays. We will continue with our learner attainment strategy for 2024 academic year. The assessment standards for Grade 10 and 11 have also been improved as part of the intervention strategy. We have successfully implemented common examinations in grade 10 and 11 in order to improve our results and quality thereof in the FET band. These interventions have assisted the department to improve learner attainment.

E- Learning

Honourable Speaker, we are continuing with our strategy for E-Learning. We have procured 35 000 tablets for our grade 1 and 8 for the 2024 cohort of learners. For the 2024 budget, we intend to procure tablets for the FET band especially for grade 10 and 11 so that it becomes easier for them to acquaint themselves with the gadgets before reaching grade 12. We have witnessed that e-learning is the way to go in grade 12 because one of our districts, Mopani West, managed to distribute tablets to all their grade 12 learners and it improved performance. This year, we requested **R300**

million for the e-learning strategy towards procurement of tablets but we have so far received **R100 million**.

We hope more funds will be made available for this very important intervention so that we can reach out to the targeted 351 schools.

Inclusive education

Honourable members and distinguished guests, we will continue to support our learners living with disabilities to perform well by providing resources that assist them with their day-to-day learning. The light of technology is everywhere we have delivered Technological Braille Assistive Devices and Hearing Equipment to Setotlwane, Rivoni, Letaba, Bosele, Siloe and Tshilidzini Special Schools. The other resources that we have procured for our public special schools is 10 buses designed specifically for challenged learners in their different categories. In the next few days, I will officially visit Bana Ba Thari Special School at Solomon-dale to handover the buses to our special school. We will continue to purchase specially designed buses for our remaining public special schools. We have put aside **R100 million** for this very crucial intervention.

Recognition and rewarding of teachers.

Honourable Speaker, the Department continued its history of excellent performance in the National Teaching Awards (NTA) competition. We managed to produce excellent teachers who competed at national level and won. I am extremely proud to announce to this August house that 5 of our educators won in various categories. Their dedication to this noble profession is always appreciated and we will continue to offer them support and give them the recognition they deserve.

Accountability Sessions

Honourable speaker, We were able to identify the schools that are underperforming as mandated by the South African School Act. This is one amongst other strategies that the Department employs towards improvement of the learning outcomes. I am pleased to report that during the 2023 budget speech we reported a reduction in the number of underperforming schools from

440 in 2022 to **310** in 2023, a reduction of **130** underperforming schools. It is worth noting, **Honourable Speaker**, that within the **310** underperforming schools, there are **114** newly underperformed schools, meaning that only **196** out of **440** had underperformed. The Department will continue to support all schools so that we can sustain the gains made in 2023.

Interventions

Honourable Speaker and distinguished guests, The Limpopo Department of Education will continue to enhance the implementation of amongst others a Rapid Intervention plan focusing on the bottom three districts, namely, Sekhukhune East, Sekhukhune South and Mopani East. The plan is to focus on all underperforming Circuits and schools in the three districts. The efforts of 2023 made us proud because we do not have an underperforming district. As a result of the interventions all the three Districts improved their performance by more than 9%. In the 2023 budget speech I reported that we had **32** underperforming circuits, but at the moment there has been a reduction from **32** to **19** circuits

underperforming. The Department has plans to strengthen and internalize the Rapid intervention plan to all 19 circuits in the 10 districts that are still performing below 70%.

Learner Admission

The Department has properly managed learner admissions for 2024 academic year and the administration of the process of learner admission went well with some few challenges comparatively with previous year. We were able to eliminate the long queues in our hotspot circuits such as Pietersburg and Lephalale. This of course is a result of proper planning and the early admission process that commenced in May last year. We however still have people who are going all out to fabricate documents to enable their children to attend at the schools of choice instead of the feeder zones. What is more concerning is that some are aided by the municipal employees in their respective areas. In the current financial year, we will work with the affected municipalities to ensure that we eliminate the fraudulent tendencies that over the years delayed the qualifying learners to be in class on time.

Capacity Building of SMTs in underperforming schools.

Honourable Speaker, we have over the years invested in capacitating staff at all levels for better results. It is through capacity that we are able to realize our mandate of delivering quality education. We want to indicate that other than our success on the plans for 2023/2024 where we managed to enrol and graduate **908** Educators on Strategic ICT Integration to push the agenda of integrating ICT into teaching and learning. The department has in the past 7 years trained **6 507** Educators on Strategic ICT Integration as ICT Champions through the Wits School of Education.

In the 2023/24 financial year, the allocation for the overall Skills Development Programme was **R212,6million** and it was successfully utilized to capacitate the different categories of serving employees at all levels in all our institutions and Office – based Educators as well as Public Service Employees. We will continue to pay

special attention to the Initial Teacher Education and graduate development programme for the unemployed youth who require work integrated learning to complete their studies.

Honourable speaker, it is critical to track and highlight the positive changes and improvements that our skills development programmes brought in the province. The Department has trained School Management Team, Principals and Deputy Principals from 2009 – 2014 on Advance Certificate in School Management and Leadership through the Universities of Venda, Limpopo, and Pretoria. From 2020 – 2023, **5 66** School Management Teams members inclusive of Principals, Deputy Principals and Departmental Heads were trained on the Advance Diploma in School Management and Leadership which for us was a huge milestone given the fact that they had to adapt to virtual learning in 2019.

The department is ensuring that the posts of Departmental Heads in schools are filled because the function performed by posts is critical for curriculum delivery and coordination. The department in collaboration with Teacher Unions identified a need to

empower the appointees to effectively deliver the required service. From 2016 to 2023, we trained **1 288** newly appointed Departmental Heads on a Post Graduate Diploma in Public Management specialising in Mentoring and Coaching which saw most of them gaining confidence in their work and gain proficiency such that some are promoted through the ranks to become principals, circuit managers and district managers.

In the past 27 years, we have funded **4 106** matriculants out of whom **4 031** pursued a Bachelor of Education Degree focusing on mainly Foundation Phase, Technology, Mathematics and Physical Sciences as well as Economic and Management sciences subjects as their majors.

Between 2009 – 2014, the Department took an unprecedented decision to enrol **290** Educators serving Foundation Phase on a full time basis, fully funded Bachelor of Education degree in Foundation Phase with the University of KwaZulu-Natal and Witwatersrand. The initiative has popularized specialization in foundation phase teaching such that it is now a norm that the skill is

a prerequisite for educators being appointed to teach at that phase.

In addition, between 2004 – 2009 the Department supported unqualified and underqualified educators by partnering with the Universities of Limpopo, Venda and Northwest to train more than 3000 Educators on a two-year National Professional Diploma in Education (NPDE). This intervention assisted the affected educators to meet the minimum requirement and therefore enabled them to improve their REQV rating. To this end, the system has successfully dealt with the challenge of having unqualified and underqualified educators in permanent positions.

Other than the targeted programmes, we have through the limited skills development funding managed to provide bursaries to all employees who only had a matric certificate at the time of their employment as well as taken general workers through ABET training until they managed to enrol for N6 courses at our TVET Colleges some of whom got promotion from cleaners to administrators.

Furthermore, **300** newly appointed Principals and School Management Team Members enrolled on a 2-year School Management and Leadership Programme offered by the University of Pretoria. **200** Senior and middle Management Members enrolled and completed the Leadership development Programme for Senior Managers in the Public Sector offered by the Wits School of Governance in 2022 and 2023 with the assistance of the ETDPSETA. In the past 14 years, the Department assisted by numerous sponsors (International and local) entered into a partnership with Wits University to assist **1 604** first generation girl learners and a few boys from rural schools by taking them to Wits University to receive additional tuition on Mathematics and Physical Sciences from Grade 10 through to Grade 12 which boosted the performance on [pass rate and increase in Bachelor passes while exposing learners to careers that were commonly dominated by males. This has surely placed Limpopo on the Map. It must also be indicated that more than **35 000** employees have benefited on various skills development programmes since 2001 to date.

Honourable Members, It is of critical importance to report that from 2011 to 2023, the Department of Education has also participated in the government agenda of opening the workplace for unemployed graduates by making funds available for **3 128** internship positions. Out of the **3 128** graduates on internship positions, 301 have secured permanent positions in the Public Service including in the Department of Education. In the same period, we have placed **5 528** University and College students on experiential learning opportunities for them to complete their studies.

Looking forward, in the 2024/25 Financial year, we have set aside **R23Million** to continue servicing the current cohort of **332** interns while beginning the processes of recruiting a new cohort for 2025/26 – 2026/2027 financial years; **R13,179million** for training of Administrative support staff at all levels; **R42,9million** appropriated for the training of the different categories of Educators, **R21,4million** has been set aside for the Initial Teacher Education including investing in the Early Childhood Development sector and our ECD Practitioners.

Educator Post Basket

Honourable Speaker, the department has, despite the challenging and unfavourable economic conditions, retained the educator post basket of **51 752** posts for the past eight school/academic years. The department continues to sustain the same post basket of **51 752** posts in the 2024 school/academic year. This serves to ensure that the quality learning and teaching is not negatively affected by the current economic environment. The department is thankful that the Treasury Department remains supportive to the sector despite the austerity control measures put in place in the public service.

It should however be noted that the pressure related to educator provisioning remains. The increase in learner enrolment over the years is putting pressure on educators. The department is contending with the resultant rise of the learner – educator ratio, which in turn increased the average class – size in all categories of our schooling system. Class – size is among the important variables of quality learning and teaching.

Honourable Speaker, the drive to recruit and replenish the system with young new year entrants to the profession continues. The recruitment of educators who are 30 years and below remains our priority. The Limpopo Department, Funza Lushaka and NSFAS Bursary scheme continue to be an impactful pipeline for the supply of educators for scarce skills subjects.

For the past 10 years, the Limpopo Department of Education has been one of the best performing provinces in the appointment of the Funza Lushaka Bursary graduates. The province managed to appoint **4 622** bursary holders. In the 2023/24 financial year **429** bursary holders were appointed in our schools.

In the 2023/24 financial year, the department appointed overall **1 622** teachers who are 30 years and below. This is an increase of **247** educators compared to the previous financial year. The departmental plan to appoint **2 000** young educators for the 2023/24 remains. The supply from the bursary schemes for 2023/24 is projected at **737** bursary holders who will be appointed in schools based on need.

School – Based Promotion Posts:

Honourable Speaker, as per the commitment made to strengthen school management teams, we are glad to report to this august house and the people of Limpopo that we appointed **200** Principals, **53** Deputy Principals and **141** Departmental Heads for our schools in the year under review.

We reiterate that the filling of these posts will enhance the capacity of the SMTs in driving school governance and curriculum management responsibilities. We therefore expect improved functionality and performance of our schools. The filling of SMT posts remains our key component of our Recruitment Plan even in 2024/25.

It is worth noting that the Limpopo Provincial Treasury has approved the filling of **2 550** promotion posts in schools, **506** Principals, **400** Deputy Principals and **1 644** Departmental Heads. This will assist in reducing the

vacancy rate and strengthen the management of schools. The appointments will come into effect from 1 April 2024, as part of the recruitment for 2024/25 FY. The filling of these posts provides an opportunity for career growth for our educators and will serve to fortify the school management and governance for our schools.

Honourable Speaker, the Department continues to build capability within the Infrastructure and Physical Resources unit by recruiting key professionals to the unit. The recruitment drive will continue in the 2024/25 financial year with the objective of reducing the high vacancy rate and countering the high turn-over rate in the area.

We are delighted to report that we have managed to train **555** members of School Management Teams as mentioned in the 2023/2024 Budget Speech. **193** were principals of underperforming schools who have improved their learner performance. The Department has also trained **3 631** School Electoral Officers in preparation for 2024 SGB Elections. The Department has successfully promulgated a **Gazette on 2024 SGB**

Elections and it was issued in the beginning of this month.

Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign - Stakeholder Management

The Department is busy conducting **2024 SGB** elections from the **1st to 31st of March 2024**. Every quarter, the Department held provincial consultative forum meetings with both SGB Associations and Principal Associations. We have resuscitated QLTC structures in all public schools and the involvement of various structures give hope to the future.

The Department has further managed to establish a Representative Council of Learners (RCL) in all public ordinary secondary schools, circuits and 10 Districts including a provincial structure. On the 29th of February 2024, the Department launched a Provincial RCL Campaign on Academic Excellence to support quality learning and Teaching.

Early Childhood Development Centres

Honourable Speaker, Early Childhood Development remains a top education priority of the government for 2024. We continue to draw our attention on expanding access to early childhood development and improving the learning environment. A total of **129 784** children{happy Feet} were enrolled for early childhood development education during the 2023 academic year. These children were accommodated at **3 936** ECD centres located across the province.

Training Of ECD Practitioners

A total of **768** ECD Practitioners successfully completed a training programme on parenting. A further **2312** practitioners were trained on Jamboree/norms and standards. The main purpose of this training was to capacitate participants on ECD norms and standards in order to increase compliance amongst ECD centres. All our **60** social workers have since received training on the registration of ECD centres and parenting programmes. The Department has trained all Social workers on the norms and standards of ECD Centres to be adhered to as contemplated in the Children's Act 38 Of 2005. 60

Social workers were capacitated on the **Va nga Sali** online registration framework.

Funding and Registration of ECD Centres

The Department of Education is funding **2 100** ECD Centers from both equitable share and Conditional grants. A call for funding for the new ECD centres to be funded for the Financial Year 2024/25 to 2025/26 was advertised and the Department is currently at the final stage to confirm ECD Centers that will qualify for the next three (3) financial years. The Department had a target of registering **115** new ECD centres for the year under review and have gone beyond our target and managed to register a total of **153** new ECD centres. It excites me to announce that the little feet, my adorable beings, are absorbed into the system in their numbers. I must indicate **Honourable Speaker** the function shift from Social Development to Education is one of the best highlights of the 6th administration. Our children /happy feet are no longer going to school just to eat and sleep, they are now in a proper system.

Norms and Standards for School Funding

I am here this morning to report back that in **2023/2024** Financial Year, the norms and standards allocations to public schools and subsidies to independent schools were transferred to schools within the timeframes and in accordance with pre-determined quintiles and categories respectively. In the second quarter of the **2023/24 financial year**, the LDoE conducted workshops across all districts to newly appointed school principals of public schools on the management of school finances and applicable legislative frameworks in the school governance setting.

For **2024/2025** Financial Year, the Department has allocated an amount of **R2,7 billion** as part of norms and standards for school funding for public ordinary schools, **R 108,million** for special schools and **R167,million** for independent schools.

Rationalisation of Small and Non-Viable Schools

In **2023/2024** Financial Year, the department managed to rationalise a total of **62** schools according to our plan. Therefore, the total number of rationalised small and non-viable schools have increased in the province from **447 to 509** merged schools. We have also noted that rationalization is met with resistance in most parts of the Province but I want to assure you that the decision is meant to benefit our learners. We urge parents to be considerate of the future of their children and their interests above everything. Properly resourced schools are a recipe for positive results. We are not doing this to spite them but to ensure that quality teaching and learning is not compromised.

HIV AND AIDS LIFE SKILLS PROGRAMME

The Department has managed to provide care and support in 1000 high burdened schools in the province with an estimated number of 1, 850 learners. The allocated budget in 2023/2024 was **R27,3 million** and We have managed to cover all intended programmes.

Prevention and reduction of learner pregnancy, prevention of bullying and substance abuse, prevention of GBV, HIV, STIs and TB. Care and Support for Teaching and Learning (CSTL) and the prevention of learner suicide.

Honourabel Members, Since beginning of the year under review, 12 Radio talk-shows in three languages Sepedi, Xitsonga and Tshivenda using Limpopo Combo were conducted wherein 36 learners, 16 SGBs and 16 educators took part. These programmes, **Honourable Speaker**, put into focus the challenges faced by learners and adolescents and create a platform for peers to speak on pressing issues that directly affect them.

We are further supported by IHPS in Sekhukhune East/Fetakgomo where 30 primary schools and 30 secondary schools are covered.

In Vhembe East in Malamulele Circuits, the Soul City is providing School Zones, Rise Young Women and Soul Buddies in 60 schools. In Mopani Districts **122** schools and Capricorn **135** schools are supported by Dreams partners whereby 260 SMTs & SGBs were trained on CSE and Management of Learner Pregnancy in schools.

NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMME (NSNP)

The Department is continuing with the school nutrition programme for learners from quintiles 1-3 schools in the province. Since the implementation of NSNP, learner attendance and punctuality improvement has been recorded.

Honourable Speaker, part to the NSNP objective is to encourage schools to advance sustainable food production. This is done through the collaboration with the Department of Agriculture. Schools that participate in this programme are encouraged to enter best school awards competition which is hosted from District to National level. In our previous budget speech, we have presented in this August house the achievement made by **Madjadji Primary School** from Ga-Selwane, in Mopani East Education district which had a best food garden which is able to feed learners and sell its products to the inhabitants. The school entered the Best School Awards competition for 2022/23 financial year and won at both provincial and National categories. As we are presenting

this budget speech today, the built kitchen which came as the first prize is near completion. This facility is useful as it complied with all safety measures required in the implementation of the NSNP Programme.

In our previous' year budget speech, we have reported that the number of learners from our schools changes every year because of their movement and new entrants in Grade R and exits in Grade 12. In the previous academic year, **3 552** primary and secondary schools, **35** special schools benefited from the school nutrition programme. We have appointed **10 664** Voluntary Food handlers whose responsibility was to cook nutritious meals for learners who are beneficiaries of this very important intervention.

In the financial year 2024/25, the programme will serve meals to learners in **3 524** primary and secondary schools, a minimal decline as compared to the 2023/24 financial year and to 35 special schools. **10 664** Voluntary Food Handlers will be appointed. Over the years of rolling out of school feeding in the province, significant strides have been recorded. The Department is however worried about the number of mother helpers who get injuries on

duty whilst preparing meals for learners. The Department together with Environmental Health Practitioners have engaged in a serious workshop and awareness about these incidences.

SCHOLAR TRANSPORT

Honourable Speaker, amidst various challenges in the roll out of learner transport, the province is making strides in this regard to ensure that a number of learners are transported to schools. We have reported in the 2023/24 budget, that the department provided learner transport to a total of **59 905** learners across the Limpopo Province. The numbers have since increased from **59 905** to **70 000** learners in this academic year. This programme is assisting in minimizing absenteeism and late coming.

The budget allocation of just over **R361,6 million** for 2024/2025 has been set aside for the provision of Learner Transport to qualifying learners to access their learning centers with ease.

Due to the number of learner transport accidents, the relationship we have with the Department of Transport and Community Safety will be re-enforced in this financial year. It is worth mentioning that this relationship is vital and accordingly paying dividends as those who are determined to compromise the safety of the learners are exposed and dealt with decisively.

Infrastructure Provisioning

I must indicate **honourable members** that infrastructure is very key to our mandate. We have seen a huge progress in some of the schools that were provided with infrastructure compared to the results produced in previous years. The year under review was declared a year of School infrastructure and I am delighted to announce to the house that we have made remarkable progress. It is not yet Uhuru but the light is visible at the end of the tunnel.

Honourable members, The Education Infrastructure Grant (EIG) budget allocated for infrastructure development in this financial year is **R1,4 billion**. The

Department has received an additional allocation of **R100 million** to attend to storm damaged schools. The Total Infrastructure Development budget amounts to **R 1.533 billion**. The infrastructure budget will be utilized towards new and replacement of aging infrastructure; upgrading of existing infrastructure; refurbishment, rehabilitation, and renovations of existing infrastructure (including storm damaged schools); as well as maintenance and repairs of existing infrastructure.

The Department has received an additional **R89 million** as part of the performance-based incentive system. The Department has identified 13 schools to benefit from the allocation. The allocation will be used to provide the much-needed infrastructure upgrades at schools.

In the 2023/24 financial year, The Limpopo Department of Education was able to complete major upgrading and additions at the following schools.

- Monala Primary School.
- April Makgakga Primary School
- MR Mamaila Primary School
- Phakeng Primary School
- Tshamiseka Primary School
- Roedtan Combined School

- Monyong Secondary School
- Mphetsebe Secondary School
- Matokane Secondary School

Over and above the major upgrades highlighted above, the Department succeeded in providing water infrastructure to **82** schools as well as appropriate sanitation infrastructure to **89** schools. The construction of Rivoni Special School for the Blind is proceeding and in course to be completed as contracted. The contractor for Asiphumelele Special School has been appointed and construction has commenced. The completion of the new special school project will provide the much-needed infrastructure improvement in the special needs education space.

In order to further improve teaching and learning conditions, the Department is currently undertaking major upgrades and additions to **57** schools across all the **10** educational districts in the province. Contractors have been appointed and construction is in progress. This investment will ensure major improvement of the teaching and learning environment particularly for schools in the

rural areas. All these projects are anticipated to achieve completion during the 2024/25 financial year.

The following are some of the schools that are under construction and are scheduled to be completed between the last quarter of 2023/24 and the first quarter of 2024/25

- **John Xikundu Primary School**
- **Mahwahwa Secondary School**
- **DZJ Mtebule Secondary School**
- **Nhlayisi Secondary School**
- **Manthe Primary School**
- **Makgongoana Secondary School**
- **April Makgakga Primary School**
- **Maboko Nkomo Primary School**
- **Napsadi Secondary School**
- **Ngwanamakhutswe Secondary School**

The planning phase of an additional 84 is at an advanced stage and should be completed by the end of the financial year. The schools include;

- **The new Bendor Secondary School**
- **Greenside**
- **Tzaneen Secondary**
- **Tiyani Secondary**
- **Vungela Primary**
- **Nhombelani Primary**
- **Maila 2 Primary**

- **Noblehoek Secondary**
- **TibaneFontein Primary**
- **Unity Primary**
- **Ndzalama Primary**

Just to name a few. **22** more School Infrastructure upgrading projects implemented through the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure are at contractor procurement stage. We know honourable Premier, that you made mention of few schools that are still using pit toilets, a site of shame that will soon be a challenge of the past. We will push and finalize the remaining few under the current administration.

Honorable Speaker, it is my singular honor to present to you the 2024/25 Vote 3 Budget for the Limpopo Department of Education.

The Department received a total budget of R40.029 billion in 2024/25 financial year which is made up of Equitable share (**R35.654 billion**), Conditional Grant (**R3.614 billion**) and Own Revenue (**R760.498 million**). This represents an increase of **R992.603 million** or 2.5 percent from **R39.037 billion** Adjusted Appropriation in 2023/24.

The allocation has been broken down per Economic Classification item as follows: Compensation of Employees (CoE) (**R30.641 billion**); Goods and Services (R4.333 billion); Transfers and Subsidies (**R3.622 billion**), and Payments for Capital Assets (**R1.433 billion**) respectively. The Compensation of Employees item receives the biggest share at 76.5% of the total Departmental budget for both Equitable share and Conditional grants.

Equitable share CoE accounts for **R30.537** billion which is 85.6% of total Equitable share allocation (**R35.654 billion**). And out of this amount, **R27.773** billion or (90.9%) is meant for Educator's salaries.

Let me take this opportunity once again to thank all the stakeholders in the sector who have been working tirelessly to support us to realize our mandate delivering quality basic education to all our children in the Province. The Sector Unions for your unwavering support and the journey we travelled together in the past two years. We are today walking tall because of your contributions and interest in what we do.

- Our SGB Associations have been very effective, thanks for your presence in all our engagements and programmes we had together in an endeavor to improve results.
- Our donors and sponsors for ensuring that school programmes happen without fail.
- Our Traditional Leaders for showing interest and taking a lead in school matters in your respective communities.
- To all the Executive Mayors and Mayors, Speakers and chief whips, all Hon Cllr's we say thank you for visiting schools, availing bursaries for learners and for adopting the schools.
- I need to thank the Hon Premier both as Premier and Chairperson of ANC for the delegation to do work on your behalf to serve the people of Limpopo, and for the support you gave to us as Education and providing leadership.
- I appreciate the journey and exposure as Delegated by the ANC.
- Let me lastly thank our Churches.

- Pastors for the counselling role in their society. You have always been there when we needed you most, when we need divine intervention ahead of exams and other challenging programmes that are part of our work. Limpopo is a better place because of you and continue with the good work that you are doing of uplifting your communities. Remain exemplary to the coming generation.
- Team Education : office of the HOD, DDGs, DD, Circuit managers, Chief Directors, Directors, managers, ECD educators, specialists, clerks, all administrators
- Team Education : Office of the MEC I have seen you working hard, trying each day to please all our stakeholders, forging new relationships and keeping our partners happy. I have seen you attending to queries on time. We have indeed led together, My happiest moments was when I get feedback from stakeholders on your prompt response to their issues, and when I give feedback, I always emphasize that there is one MEC why are you working so hard and

better than me. Thank you so much I appreciate each one of you.

- Team Communication in the Department and my office , you are the best, You know your work, and still remain the Best, I could not have asked for a better team. From preparing/branding the events, to coverage of all our activities but most important maintainings the decorum of the Department.
- To my Educators : in his thesis under the topic : A Study of Continuous Assessment for Effective Teaching and Learning at Vhembe District Dr H RAMAKHANYA he wrote : “ when developing teaching strategies and learning activities, teachers should take into account the diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds of their learners. Teachers should emphasize that the development of understanding of concept and principles is more important than the recall of factual information or the development of routine skills.

Taking into consideration the above description ,one clearly sees the importance of planning in order to achieve certain goals after learning has taken place.

Longhran and Russel(1997:63) agrees that teaching is inextricably linked to learning and therefore is a two way process. They maintain that teaching and learning are interconnected through a dynamic system in which one continually influences the other”

‘MAY HIS SOUL CONTINUE TO REST IN PEACE ‘

Thanks as well to my children & siblings and family friends for your support and for going an extra mile for me and the team, thanks to my grandchildren who tries so much to understand my schedule and try to fit on everything that I do,

- To all the stakeholders, You are the light that they need for guidance in their academic Journey. The light that will brighten their careers and future prospects. Let there be light.

I thank you