


FREE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

BUDGET VOTE 2021/22

25 MARCH 2021

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SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Free State Department of Education Budget Vote Speech, 2021/22

**Delivered by the Honorable MEC, Tate Makgoe (MPL),
Mohaladitwe Secondary School, Qwa Qwa**

25 March 2021

Madam Speaker

Honourable Premier

Members of the Executive Council

Members of the Provincial Legislature

Organised Labour

Our Partners Principals, Teachers, and Learners

School Governing Bodies

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

The people of the Free State

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to deliver the Free State Department of Education Budget Vote 6. The days of doing business as usual are over. With renewed vigour and resolve we must perform our public service in an unusual business model.



At the recent Virtual Education Lekgotla, His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa emphasised the importance of the Lekgotla's theme – ***'Equipping learners with the Knowledge and skills for the changing World.'***

In his opening address at the three-day lekgotla last month, the President called on the sector to teach our learners subjects and content that will equip them to fit the changing profile of their future careers and employable skills.

The President directed us to radically change our focus towards the 4th Industrial Revolutions and embrace efforts to bring new learning areas such as **Robotics** and **Coding** in the foundation phase.

We must teach skills that will enable economic growth and ensure that young people read with meaning by their 10th birthday.

The 2021 schooling kicked-off in earnest on 15 February. The take-off has been hitch-free from every indication - thanks to significant commitment and innovations undertaken by our industrious principals, teachers, parents, provincial and district officials.

The year 2020 was undoubtedly tumultuous for both learners and teachers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the beginning of the pandemic, four learners, 66 teachers, and three non-teaching staffers in our schools have succumbed to this dreaded virus. We had to strike a



delicate balance between saving lives and the meaningful continuation of the academic year.

I am pleased to announce that we have put sufficient measures to allow for safe teaching and learning in all our schools. To save lives in our schools, we need to strictly adhere to non-pharmaceutical interventions as advised by the Department of Health.

On Sunday, 21 March, Honourable Members, the country celebrated the 2021 Human Rights Day, under the theme: ***'The Year of Charlotte Maxeke: Promoting Human Rights in the age of COVID-19'***.

We take this opportunity to pay tribute to the 150 anniversary of the liberation struggle heroine, educationist, human rights campaigner, and Bantu Women's League founder – a precursor to the ANC Women's League.

We celebrate women's achievements, knowing fully that we still have a long way to go to reach new frontiers in the struggle for women's emancipation and gender equality.

Education is a vehicle to a non-sexist and equitable society. Hence the Free State Department of Education takes full responsibility for providing education that is gender inclusive.



We all must ensure that the treasures of democracy bestowed upon us by female stalwarts and legends of the struggle do not disappear into the black-hole of history.

Basic Education Employment Initiative (BEEI)

Madam Speaker, Honorable Members, the Free State Department of Education have successfully implemented the Presidential Basic Education Employment Initiative (BEEI), which commenced in December 2020 and will end on 31 March 2021. The department was allocated a budget amount of R41. 622 million as part of its equitable share.

With this allocation, 19 002 Education Assistant (EAs) and General School Assistants (GSA) were appointed in 1 047 schools and 1 471 SGB funded posts in public and government subsidized independent schools were saved.

The aim of this initiative is to mitigate the severe and devastating impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the disastrous unemployment, particularly of the youth (18-35 years).

Through this initiative, we were able to deal with the inherent problems besetting the sector. These include heavy teacher workload, losses of curriculum coverage and inadequate maintenance which hinders the conducive learning atmosphere.

This initiative has also empowered these EAs and GSAs to effectively execute their duties by exposing them to training and development programmes to improve their skills and competencies.

Beneficiaries of this initiative have been registered with the UIF to assist them beyond the end date of the programme.

This initiative has been welcomed by principals and teachers in the province as they were able to focus their efforts on supporting learners. Young people who have been appointed in this programme have also shown appreciation for the opportunity they have been afforded while improving and honing their skills.

Training youth and government employees on digital skills

Madam, Speaker, to prepare young people for Information Society and Digital Age we are working together with the National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa (NEMISA) to offer ICT skills to youth who are at still at school, young people out school and government employees in our province. This training will inter alia include basic digital literacy, software development, web development, artificial intelligence, robotics and digital marketing.

School Governing Body (SGB) Elections

School governors are the unsung heroes and heroines of our education system. They are one of the country's biggest volunteer forces, working in their spare time to promote school improvement and support school principals and teachers in their work.



The election of SGBs every three years is one of the most important activities that the Department of Education engages in. The elections see an overwhelming number of parents voting for their peers to represent them in decision making at their schools.

The importance of these elections at all our schools cannot be overstated.

The term of office for the current SGBs elected in 2018 expires at the end of March 2021. My heartfelt gratitude goes to the school Governors who worked side-by-side with us as we inculcated a culture of teaching and learning in our schools. Without your support and commitment, the department would not have made the strides we have made.

I also take this opportunity to urge all our parents to participate in large numbers in the 2021 SGB Elections currently taking place in our schools and will be coming to an end at the end of April 2021.

1. 2021/22 BUDGET ALLOCATION

Madam Speaker, the Free State Department of Education's allocated budget in the 2021/21 financial year is fifteen billion four hundred and seventy-four million nine hundred and forty-four thousand rands (R15.474.944.000). In the 2020/21 financial year, it was fifteen billion four hundred and eighty-three million nine hundred and twenty-one thousand rands (R15.483.921.000). This is an increase of 1%.

PROGRAMME	BUDGET ALLOCATION	
Administration	R 1 153 444 000	One billion, one hundred and fifty-three million and four hundred and forty-four thousand rand
Public Ordinary Schools	R 11 714 203 000	Eleven billion, seven hundred and fourteen million and two hundred and three thousand rand
Independent School Subsidies	R 112 429 000	One hundred and twelve million and four hundred and twenty-nine thousand rand
Public Special School Education	R 614 923 000	Six hundred and fourteen million and nine hundred and twenty-three thousand rand
Early Childhood Development	R 169 315 000	One hundred and sixty-nine million and three hundred and fifteen thousand rand
Infrastructure Development	R 910 540 000	Nine hundred and ten million and five hundred and forty thousand rand
Examinations and Education-Related Services	R 800 090 000	Eight hundred million and ninety thousand rand

Curriculum

Primary Schools

Madam Speaker, in the 2021/22 financial years an amount of R44.273 million has been earmarked to fund grade R learners in both Public

Ordinary Schools and Community Centres. These funds are allocated as follows:

ALLOCATION OF GRADE R LEARNERS IN PUBLIC ORDINARY SCHOOLS

QUINTILE	NR OF SCHOOLS	NR OF LEARNERS	70% OF FUNDING PER GR 1 LEARNER IN PUBLIC ORDINARY SCHOOL	TOTAL ALLOCATIONS
Q1	452	12,244	1,075	13,164,749
Q2	195	9,960	1,075	10,708,992
Q3	245	11,287	1,075	12,135,782
Q4	69	2,422	539	1,305,458
Q5	83	2,893	186	538,677
TOTAL	1,044	38,806		37,853,658

ALLOCATION OF GRADE R LEARNERS AT COMMUNITY CENTRES

QUINTILE	NR OF COMMUNITY CENTRES	NR OF LEARNERS	70% OF FUNDING PER GR 1 LEARNER IN PUBLIC ORDINARY SCHOOL	TOTAL ALLOCATIONS
Q1	235	5,697	1,075	6,125,414
Q5	51	1,578	186	293,824
TOTAL	286	7,275		6,419,238

In terms of National Norms and Standards, Grade R learners are funded at 70% of Grade 1 learners.

Primary schooling remains our priority as it improves the learning outcomes in Mathematics and languages across the grades.

Our plans for Primary Schools in the 2021/22 financial year are as follows:

- 100 Grade R practitioners from Motheo and Xhariep District will be upskilled towards NQF level 4 qualification to prepare them for quality teaching in the ECD with a budget of R 950 000,00

- In preparation for the Universalisation of Grade R, we will do the following:
 - Policy on the funding of Grade R practitioners has been crafted, adopted and is ready to be implemented in the 2021/22 financial year
 - 300 Grade R practitioners will be up-skilled towards obtaining at least a Diploma in Grade R teaching or BEd in Foundation Phase
 - Resourcing 90 Primary Schools with Grade R outdoor equipment and 60 with the indoor resources

The Free State Department of Education will continue to emphasize building the foundations for learning by ensuring that the acquisition of language skills is at the center of language learning at primary school level.

Furthermore, from 1 April 2021 monthly subsidies paid to the Grade R practitioners, will increase from:

- R5 000.00 to R6000.00 for practioners with grade 12 and below,
- R6 000.00 to R7 000.00 for those who have matric and ECD qualifications,
- R7 000.00 to R10 000. 00 for practioners with National Diploma in Grade R Teaching and above.

We will also create posts to employ qualified Grade R teachers who have Diploma in Grade R Teaching or BEd in Foundation Phase.

By the end of 2021, all public primary schools in the province will have Grade R classes.

Our targets in the international and regions tests are as follows:

Grade	PIRLS		SACMEQ		TIMSS		
	2015 Performance	2021 Target	2015 Performance	2021 Target	2015 Performance	2019 Performance	2023 Target
4	347	400 (FP)					
5	483	500 (IP)			342	374 (Maths) 333 (Science)	420
6			543	600			

Progress in the International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) 2021

Every five years, Madam Speaker, as a country, we participate in the Progress in the International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS). This year's PIRLS will be administered in August. The Department of Basic Education will select Grade 4 schools in the province to participate.

To achieve the set targets, the focus will be on 2 Major Activities in Primary School Language of Teaching and Learning:

- Promoting meaningful reading and writing for pleasure wherein 10 849 learners from township schools offering English LOLT will be participating. The intention is to produce young writers and promote the love for reading

- Strengthening assessment practices of Grades 4 – 7 language teachers

Training of 216 grades 4 – 7 teachers on Assessment for learning to ensure meaningful learning and improved learning outcomes.

Secondary Schools

Madam Speaker, in the 2020 Academic Year, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, we were able to source funds from the ***MST Grant: R 6,324 303, 60, Teacher Development: R 21 455 898, 50, Covid-19 fund: R 14 940 717, 99, LITNUM Budget: R 2 100m to procure the following ICT Devices:***

i) **Laptops**, for:

- 463 officials of the Curriculum Directorate, including Head Office and Districts, Teacher Development Head Office, Circuit Managers and Exams Head Office.
- 197 CAT and IT teachers
- 180 Township Secondary Schools offering maths in grades 10 – 12
- 360 grades 10 – 12 Mathematics teachers in the township schools
- 500 Foundation Phase teachers in partnership with the ETDP SETA
- 108 Schools with grade 12 learners with comorbidities
- 28 EGD teachers.

- ii) **Data projectors**, for
 - 60 Secondary School Curriculum Officials
 - 28 EGD teachers
 - 197 CAT and IT teachers
 - 180 Township Secondary Schools offering Mathematics in grades 10 – 12
- iii) **Document readers** for 28 EGD schools
- v) 20 GB **data cards** for the 463 officials and 10 GB **data cards** for 197 CAT and IT officials.
- vi) **Tablets** for 412 grade 12 learners with comorbidities.

These ICT gadgets enable the Curriculum Team to mediate the trimmed ATPs, conduct virtual training through various virtual platforms, e.g. Microsoft teams, Zoom, etc., to empower teachers to support our learners in achieving our APP targets.

Grade 12 Class of 2020

Despite the reduced Academic Year, the scrapping of the June Examinations and conducting Preparatory Examinations in selected big enrolment subjects, the **Class of 2020** made us proud.

The Free State recorded an **85.1% pass rate, the highest in the country**. We obtained the **first position** in the country for the **fifth time since 2013**, which is an outstanding accomplishment. Four of these

number one positions were achieved in the **past five years when the repackaged and strengthened Curriculum called CAPS was introduced.**

Madam Speaker, we are the only province that surpassed the 90% threshold when considering the pass percentage of promoted learners. This happened in 2016 with an overall pass rate of 92%. Our pass percentages from 2018 to 2020 are as follows: 90.4%, 90.5% and 91.3% respectively.

For the first time ever, the Free State exceeded the target of 40% Bachelor passes. 40.4% of our learners achieved a Bachelor pass, and 71.7% of our learners passed with entry to Diploma and Bachelor studies.

The 2020 NSC results also saw notable achievements in the following:

- The Free State outperformed all other provinces in seven of the eleven big enrolment subjects, namely: Accounting with a pass rate of 86,4%, Agricultural Sciences with a pass rate of 82,8%, Business Studies with a pass rate of 84,4% which is the highest improvement of 10% from 2019, Economics with a pass rate of 75,4%, Life Sciences with a pass rate of 82,6%, Mathematics Literacy with a pass rate of 88,9%, Geography with a pass rate of 87,9% and Life Orientation.
- Mathematics achieved an overall NSC Grade 12 pass rate of 66.3%, which is the second-highest provincial pass rate in 2020 in this subject in the country.

- Physical Sciences recorded an impressive 71.2% pass rate.
- Our partnership with Investec and CHIETA to support grade 10, 11 and 12 learners continues to produce excellent grade 12 results in Mathematics and Physical Sciences. For 7 consecutive years, the OR Tambo Centre in QwaQwa has produced 100% pass rate in both subjects - 167 and 164 learners in Mathematics and Physical Sciences respectively.

Last year in partnership with Harmony we have also established a similar centre at Leseding T/S in Welkom, Thabong.

- Three of our five districts, Fezile Dabi, Thabo Mofutsanyana (TMED) and Motheo, are amongst the Top Ten districts countrywide, with TMED and Motheo consistently achieving the **40% bachelor pass rate for the past two years.**
- We are proud of **MALUTI A PHOFUNG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**, a rural municipality, consistently achieving the provincial target of 90/40 since 2017.
- The number of schools achieving the provincial **90/40% target is still on the rise.** A total of 129 schools achieved this target, of which 67 (52%) are township schools. This is a clear demonstration that we are indeed closing the gap between the historically disadvantaged schools and former model C schools.
- Madam Speaker, we are achieving outstanding success with our support programs towards progressed learners. At least 54.8% of

progressed learners passed Grade 12, and 54.8% of those learners passed with entry to Diploma or Bachelor studies.

- Kopanong Senior Secondary, a township school, is amongst the Top Ten schools in Mathematics and Physical Sciences, with even a 100% pass rate in Physical Sciences.
- A number of our Top Ten schools in Accounting, History, Mathematics and Physical Sciences (with more than 50 learners in each of these subjects) achieved a 100% pass rate and an average percentage above 70%!
- Five of the top twelve Math & Science schools in the province, Kopanong, Lekgulo, Ntsu, Rantsane and Beacon are township schools, four of them from Thabo Mofutsanyane District and Kopanong from the Motheo District!

Mathematics distinctions doubled from 210 in 2019 to 420 in 2020 while the **participation rate increased** from **9 886 in 2019** to **11 224 in 2020**. This translates to an increase of 1 338 learners.

In 2019, **Sesotho Home Language** and **Afrikaans Home Language** did not perform as expected. In 2020 we focussed on Paper 2 of these two Home Languages by training teachers and learners on tactics and approaches to deal with Paper 2.



We also trained teachers on EFAL to enable our learners to access other subjects. Our efforts, despite Covid-19, saw an improvement in both the pass rates and the number of distinctions in these languages.

The pass rate for Sesotho improved from 99, 6% in 2019 to 99, and 7% in 2020, with the number of distinctions improving from **334 in 2019 to 444 in 2020**. This translates to an increase of **110 learners** obtaining distinctions. Afrikaans improved from **95,2% in 2019 to 97,4% in 2020**, and the number of distinctions improved from **88 in 2019 to 168 in 2020**. This is a total increase of **80 distinctions**.

The good story to tell in the Technical Vocational Stream is that the pass rate for all the **Technical specialisations** is above **95 %**, with **Fitting and Machining** obtaining 100% for the second year, while **Civil Services** recorded 100% for the first time in 2020.

In 2020 NSC results we obtained 7 265 distinctions, which is 981 more distinctions than the previous year.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the **Grade 12 Class of 2020** for making us proud. They have indeed, worked hard.

Provincial Strategy on Learner Attainment for 2021

Madam Speaker, our targets for the 2021 Academic Year, are as follows:

- Grade 12, 90% pass rate with 45% Bachelor pass
- Grades 10 – 11, 85% pass rate with 35% Bachelor pass

- Grades 8 – 9, 85% pass rate with an average pass of 65%
- Grades 4 – 7, 95% pass rate with an average pass of 70%
- Grades 1 – 3, 100% pass rate with an average pass of 75%

Three-Stream Model

Madam Speaker, focus will be dedicated to growing the three-stream model with a bias towards the Technical Vocational and Technical Occupational Streams.

Technical Vocational Stream

Madam Speaker; the Wongalethu SS introduced a technical stream in 2021 for Grade 10. Twenty-eight Grade 10 learners enrolled for Automotive and EGD. We have supplied each learner with an EGD drawing board and all drawing equipment.

Printed materials were also provided to these learners. The school will receive a fully equipment Automotive workshop before the end of June.

In our quest to increase technical schools in the province, Boaramelo SS will introduce a technical stream in 2022. Equipment for the automotive workshop and all resources will be delivered before January 2022.

Learners in the Technical Vocational Stream will receive materials to complete their Practical Assessment Tasks (PATs) to ensure that they acquire the necessary knowledge and skills needed for the world of work and further learning. Monitoring of the use of workshop equipment remains a priority.

All EGD Grade 10 to 12 learners will also be supplied with printed workbooks to improve their drawing abilities.

Piloting the Technical Occupational Curriculum in the Technical Vocational Schools.

Madam Speaker, five Technical Schools and five Agricultural Schools are piloting the Occupational Curriculum as of February 2021. These schools replaced two grade 8 subjects (Creative Arts, Technology or EMS) with two occupational curriculum subjects. These subjects will increase the participation rate in Grade 10 as learners will have acquired the requisite skills needed in the subsequent grades.

Integrated Rural Education Strategy (IRES)

Our small and non-viable schools exist in a complex environment with much diversity. Many of the challenges of farm and rural schools can be resolved through the Integrated Rural Education Strategy (IRES), which *inter alia* aim to close small and non-viable schools with less than 50 learners and where one teacher teaches all subjects across all grades (Multigrade teaching).

In the 2021/2022 financial year, the department will close 51 non-viable schools in the province.

We will also close non-viable routes, covering 80 km that has less than 10 learners. We are expanding the Farm School Hostel Project to accommodate farm learners.

Currently, there are 44 hostels in the province, accommodating 6 401 farm learners. An amount of R84 million has been set aside in the 2021/22 financial year for the Farm School Hostel Project.

Madam Speaker, we call on parents and other stakeholders to support and embrace our IRES as this intervention will go a long way in providing quality education to our farm school learners.

Accommodating these learners in the hostels will help us tackle the problem of high level of learner absenteeism, late coming and the dropout rate in our farm schools. We will also be taking these learners from unreliable and unroadworthy vehicles, bad roads and provide them with quality education they deserve. They will have added benefit of access to running water, electricity, three meals a day and e-learning facilities

Available evidence demonstrates that learners who are accommodated in these hostels complete their matric.

Of all Hostel School Project grade 12 learners who wrote NSC examinations over the past five years (2016-2020), 88.1% passed and 36.2% achieved bachelor passes. In 2020, Ventersburg I/S, Pellissier CS, Relebohile Sibulele CS all part of Farm School Hostel Project obtain 100% in the NSC results. Seven other farm school hostels performed above 90%.

Norms and Standards for School Funding

Madam Speaker, in the 2021/22 financial year, an amount of R894.080 million has been appropriated for Norms and Standards for Public Ordinary School Funding.


In the 2021 academic year, 85% of our schools are no fee-paying schools. The national adequacy benchmark in the 2021 academic year for quintile 1-3 schools is R1 536 per learner. In quintile 4 and 5, the allocation is R770 and R266 per learner respectively. This means that our Public Ordinary Schools are funded in line with the National Norm.

Infrastructure

Vandalism of Schools

Madam Speaker, I deeply regret to announce that the province recorded a high level of vandalism and burglaries at our schools during the national lockdown last year. A total of 75 schools across the province have been affected. The department has completed repairs to all identified schools through the framework contractors and CDP contractors.

District	Total No. of Vandalised Schools	Schools repaired by SGB	Percentage Completion by Value of Work		Value of Projects
			Under Construction	100 %	
Xhariep	4	0	0	4	R 352 647,50
Motheo	35	3	0	32	R 6 443 188,80
Lejweleputswa	14	0	0	14	R 2 314 568,45

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Thabo Mofutsanyana	9	3	0	6	R 823 195,83
Fezile Dabi	13	2	0	11	R 2 036 958,21
TOTALS	75	8	0	67	R11 970 558,79

Non-compliant Infrastructure

After the national lockdown, some schools did not comply with the new health protocols, thus delaying their reopening. The department appointed Framework Contractors to do repairs and upgrades as indicated below:

District	Total No. of Schools with Infrastructure Challenges	Value of Projects
Xhariep	48	R17 434 146,01
Motheo	123	R38 872 299,93
Lejweleputswa	45	R45 029 588,70
Thabo Mofutsanyana	122	R33 270 364,87
Fezile Dabi	57	R18 107 655,50
TOTALS	395	R152 714 055,01

New schools

Madam Speaker, let me remind this house that one of our priorities is to lay the foundation for quality education by universalizing schooling and eliminating disparities in our province once for all. Our core business is to ensure that all children in the province have access to quality education. We aim to achieve this noble goal as we continue to provide all school-going learners with schooling facilities across the province.

We are in the process of building 15 new schools across the province. These new schools will mitigate overcrowding in our schools as a result of population growth and learner movement.

The following schools are above 95% completion, making some facilities usable. As a result, learners have started utilizing those facilities:

- Rehopotswe Primary School in Bethlehem
- Ruang Tsebo Primary School in Clocolan
- Mooifontein Primary School in Zastron
- Caleb Motshabi Primary School in Bloemfontein

Two more schools will be completed and ready for occupation within the 2021/22 financial year. They are:

- Tlholo Primary School in Botshabelo
- Malebogo Primary School in Hertzogville

The remaining nine schools are at various stages of construction .

Autism Specific School

Madam Speaker, in the 2020/21 financial year, we announced that the department is in the process of implementing the first phase of an Autism Specific School at the existing Lourierpark Primary School. The project is progressing well, and we are excited to announce that the first phase of the long-awaited school is anticipated to be completed in the third quarter of 2021.

Three Stream Model

Last year Madam Speaker, we told this House in a virtual address that we will focus on the Three Stream Model through building workshops.

We are thrilled to report that this programme has been handed over to an implementing agent and is currently finalizing procurement.

The following schools in Xhariep District have been identified to receive these facilities:

- Wongalethu in Bethulie
- Boaramelo in Jagersfontein
- Reikaeletse in Koffiefontein

Hostels: New Hostels

Madam Speaker, to support learners with special needs, we are currently building a new hostel at Leboneng Special School in Welkom.

Two other hostels are under construction for ordinary public schools. They are Dr Blok in Bloemfontein for girls and Breda in Fouriesburg for boys and girls. Both these hostels will accommodate farm school learners.

Hostels: Refurbishments/Renovations

Madam Speaker, providing learners with decent and proper accommodation is critical for their wellbeing. Three existing hostels were renovated in the 2020/21 financial year. In 2021/2022, an additional 21 hostels will be renovated.

Accelerated School Infrastructure Development Initiative (Asidi)

Since the inception of the Accelerated School Infrastructure Development Initiative (Asidi), a total of 26 schools that were built with inappropriate materials have been re-constructed and completed. Four schools are still under construction in the Xhariep District and are anticipated to be completed in the 2021/22 financial year.

In the previous financial year, we partnered with AVBOB to re-build Joe Solomon Primary School in Bloemfontein, erected with inappropriate materials. The project is progressing well and is expected to be completed by May 2021.

Upgrades, Additions and Renovations

The Department of Basic Education introduced the Minimum Norms and Standards for school infrastructure of which all new or additional facilities must comply. The Norms and Standards stipulates the types of facilities and services all schools must have access to. In the 2021/2022 financial year, R87million has been set aside to provide the following additional facilities to schools:

- 57 x Grade R Classrooms
- 29 x Additional Classrooms
- 10 x Nutrition Centers
- 6 x Laboratories
- 8 x Ablution Facilities
- 4 x Fences

In addition, by June 2021 six school halls will be completed. This will be done in collaboration with Kagiso Trust. This is part of the incentive for schools which obtained 100% in NSC results. These halls are at the following schools:

- Tsebo SS, QwaQwa
- Reahola SS, QwaQwa
- Thokoana Makaota SS, QwaQwa
- Selelekela SS, QwaQwa,
- Molapo SS, QwaQwa
- Wongalethu SS, Bethulie.

COVID-19 INTERVENTIONS

Screeners and Cleaners

Madam Speaker, we have appointed more cleaners for regular cleaning of ablution facilities and classrooms to minimise the spread of COVID-19.

Screeners were also appointed for the day-to-day screening of learners, educators and general staff before entering the school premises.

A lump sum of **R105 592 500** was allocated to appoint 1 855 additional staffers to work from 01 June 2020 until 31 March 2021 across the province.

DISTRICT	ADDITIONAL CLEANERS NEEDED
Xhariep	90
Motheo	364
Lejweleputswa	255
Thabo Mofutsanyana	719
Fezile Dabi	427

Deep Cleaning

In the 2020/21 financial year, **R 10 000 000** was transferred to schools to conduct deep cleaning to comply with Covid-19 regulations.



CONCLUSION

As I conclude, I wish to congratulate the **Class of 2020** and wish them well in their future endeavors. I am upbeat that the **Class of 2020** will continue to shine wherever they are.

I wish all learners the very best.

We call upon all of you to help us improve on this year's results.

Working together, we can do more to improve the quality of basic education, bearing in mind, at all times, that the free development of each is the condition for the free development of all.

Thank you to the Premier, Executive Council, Members of the Education Portfolio Committee, Mayors, Executive Mayors, our social partners, SGBs and teacher unions for continued guidance and cooperation.

Let's do it again, raise the bar, close the gap and support learners in all grades.

Also, we extend gratitude to the Provincial Coronavirus Command Council for their support and decisive leadership.

We convey our condolences to all families who have lost loved ones due to COVID-19. May the dear souls of the departed rest in eternal peace! We are living under challenging circumstances that require commitment, dedication, sacrifice, and selflessness.



We need to ensure that in all that we do, we put health and safety as our apex priority.

What is required now is absolute vigilance, alertness, and, most of all, strict adherence to the health, safety, and social distancing measures that have been put in place.

Teachers are at the coalface of basic education delivery. What our teachers do at the school level is what matters most as they prepare learners not only with current challenges but also for opportunities of the future and the changing world of work.

The future of our learners, prosperity and further development of our country is in their hands. We thank our teachers again for the great work they continue to do daily and for putting our learners' interest at the top of their priority list.

To my political home, the ANC, for continuing to make basic education priority number one.

My gratitude also extends to all officials of the Free State Department of Education under the able leadership of HOD, Advocate Tsoarelo Malakoane, for their tremendous hard work and dedication during these uncharted waters.

I also salute the Honourable Members of this House for your ongoing hard work in ensuring that education is, and always will be a societal priority.



I thank my wife, Ivy, my daughters Palesa and Maki and my son, Junior, for their loving support throughout my career.

Finally, to all comrades, colleagues and friends, let us build a solid post-Covid-19 social compact where everyone will take responsibility for their sphere of influence.

Working together as partners, we can, and we will win the war against this invisible virulent enemy. It is firmly in our hands.

I, thank you



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'Raising the bar, closing the gap
& supporting Learners in all grades'

