



WHEN THE SUN RISES  
WE WORK HARD TO DELIVER

# National Council of Provinces (NCOP): Ministerial Briefing Session on School Infrastructure and Equipment

11 March 2025

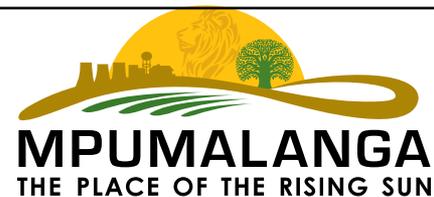


education

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NCOP: Ministerial Briefing session on schools infrastructure



# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION.
2. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS
3. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE – 5 YEARS
4. DELIVERY PERFORMANCE (ACHIEVEMENTS) – 5 YEARS
5. PROGRESS ON DELIVERY
6. TARGETS FOR MTEF
7. SCHOOL FURNITURE (ACHIEVEMENTS AND TARGETS)
8. CHALLENGES AND MITIGATIONS
9. RECOMMENDATION



# 1. Purpose of presentation

- ❑ Progress in Providing Proper Infrastructure and Equipment to Ensure Quality Education Outcomes and a Safe and Healthy Learning Experience for Learners.

## 2. Provincial Overview / Situational Analysis

- ❑ Mpumalanga province is characterised by uneven development in education infrastructure which follows the human settlement patterns made up of a mixture of both urban and rural areas
- ❑ The Province is confronted with the **increasing demand for schools in the main towns** (termed fast-growing towns) found in Emalahleni, Steve Tshwete, City of Mbombela and Govan Mbeki municipalities. This is exacerbated by the lack of public land availability in these towns which makes it difficult to provide the schools within the anticipated timeframes.
- ❑ The province in terms of municipal demarcation has three (3) districts namely Ehlanzeni, Nkangala and Gert Sibande district municipalities. The demographics will be presented at provincial and district level as per the municipal demarcation. The fourth district which is established as an education district is Bohlabela district and is made up of Thaba Chweu and Bushbuckridge municipality thus its demographics will be a sum of the 2 local municipalities.
- ❑ **Bohlabela district** is an education district which is part of the Ehlanzeni district municipality. It is a former Lebowa and Gazankulu **homeland with communities constructed schools which are mostly old and dilapidated due to a lack of maintenance**. As a result, this district represents the bulk of the backlogs in the province in terms of dilapidated and unsafe structures.
- ❑ **Ehlanzeni District** is home to Mbombela, which is the capital city of the province. The city **has seen growth** in the industries which economic and employment opportunities, which attract people into the city. This puts pressure on the various organs of state to provide social infrastructure in a set up where there is limited bulk capacity which is attributed to the legacy of the past regime and current economic dynamics.

## 2. Provincial Overview / Situational Analysis'..cont'

- ❑ **Gert Sibande district is mostly farmlands** but also has engineering companies such as Sasol and Eskom providing employment in large numbers. There is a high rate of migrating from rural circuits to economically viable circuits in search of a better life. This results in low enrolment at farm schools, high scholar transport cost given the uneven distribution / sparsity of learners per transport radius, and poor quality of teaching and learning as teachers in these schools often teach multi-grade. As a result, the Mpumalanga Provincial Government introduced the first boarding school pilot project in this district.
- ❑ **Nkangala District** seems to be the most urbanised district as it comprises two (2) of the four (4) big towns in the province namely Emalahleni and Middelburg in Emalahleni and Steve Tshwete local municipality respectively. Emalahleni is the biggest coal producer in Africa and Middelburg in Steve Tshwete local municipality produces steel and vanadium. **A high demand for new schools has been observed in the above municipalities**, however due to the lifespan of mines, closing of mines in Emalahleni has caused idling classrooms in the old townships such as Lynnville (e.g. at Vuma, Khayaletu Primary and Hlalanikahle secondary school). **The demand for schools is observed through the overcrowding experience in the schools within new townships** such as New Klarinet.
- ❑ According to EMIS, the official number of **public schools in Mpumalanga Province is 1 634**. In addition to this, there are 142 independent schools which brings the total to 1 776 the number of schools in the province.
- ❑ The 1 634 schools in the province are distributed into different categories; 1054 primary schools, 473 secondary schools, 53 combined schools, 36 intermediate schools and 18 special schools.

Institution Type	Bohlabela	Ehlanzeni	Gert Sibande	Nkangala	Total
Combined	3	11	24	15	53
Intermediate	0	1	1	34	36
Primary	238	231	287	298	1054
Secondary	131	109	98	135	473
Special	2	2	7	7	18
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>1634</b>

### 3. Budget and Expenditure

Year	TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET (2020/2021 TO 2024/2025) R'000	TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURE (2020/2021 TO 2024/25) R'000	% Spent	2025 MTEF ALLOCATION			
				R'000			
				2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	TOTAL
2020/21	1 889 859	1 145 508	96%	1 497 958	1 527 734	1 417 148	4 442 840
2021/22	1 201 475	1 200 267	100%				
2022/23	893 732	907 139	102%				
2023/24	1 206 622	1 217 020	101%				
2024/25	1 487 300	1 275 452	86%				
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 678 958</b>	<b>5 745 386</b>	<b>86 %</b>				

- ❑ The performance of education infrastructure (financial and non-financial) has improved over the past year, and contributed to the Department achieving the incentive that resulted in an increase on the grant allocation.
- ❑ 2024/25 status is at 28 February 2025.

## 4. Achievements

Programme	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total achieved 2020/21- 2024/25
Number of New Schools	2	2	1	0	1	6
Replacement Schools	0	3	1	0	2	6
Provision / Replacement of Sanitation	172	146	66	13	17	414
Provision / Upgrade of Water	149	73	52	29	24	327
Provision / Upgrade of Electricity	0	1	0	0	0	1
Maintenance Projects	220	78	78	147	80	603
Additional Classrooms	108	229	191	20	181	729
Grade R Classrooms	14	8	10	2	12	46
Provision / Upgrade of Fence	3	12	16	30	8	69
Boarding Schools	1	0	0	0	0	1
ECD (New)	0	1	0	1	1	1
ECD (Renovation)	0	37	12	15	12	76
ECD Health and safety packages	0	0	0	0	8	8

- ❖ **Highlights-** The province managed to build 6 new schools and also ensured provision of additional classrooms in overcrowded areas.

## 5a. Progress on Delivery - ASIDI

❖ The Province is currently benefitting on two schools under the ASIDI programme.

No	Name of school	Scope of work	District	Municipality	Contract amount	Expenditure	Physical Progress	Start date	End date
1.	Marifaan Primary School	Demolition of inappropriate structures, Construction of 6 classrooms, 2 Grade R Centres.	Bohlabela	Thaba Chweu	R 35,136,539.20	R 13 900 534.12 (45.50%)	72%	5 March 2024	6 January 2025 (revised date 23 July 2025)
2.	Mpuzana Primary School	Demolition of inappropriate structures, Construction of 5 classrooms, grade R centre, kitchen, guardhouse, perimeter fence and renovation of 6 classrooms, administration block and ablution facility.	Ehlanzeni	Mbombela	R 34,094,748.32	R 13 165 448.50 (51.33 %)	76%	27 March 2024	27 January 2025 – revised date to be confirmed.

❖ The Province doesn't have mud schools however has 53 inappropriate / community built structures.

❖ The Province is currently implementing 11 Projects in 2024/25 under new and replacement programme through Education Infrastructure Grant across the four (4) education districts at **the project cost of R 542 116 624.80**

❖ The 11 schools are distributed as follows; **(5 schools in Bohlabela District located - 4 in Bushbuckridge Municipality and 1 in Thaba Chweu Municipality. 4 schools in Ehlanzeni – 3 in Nkomanzi Municipality and 1 in Mbombela Municipality. 1 school in Gert Sibande under Msukaligwa Municipality . 1 school in Nkangala under the Steve Tshwete Municipality**

## 5c. Progress on Delivery – Eradication of pit latrines

- ❖ **There's no school currently operating on pit latrines only (the province had 3 schools which were relying on pit toilets only have been addressed in the current financial year). However, there are still schools (49) which have proper toilets but still with pits on site due to the following reasons:**
  - a. Schools provided with insufficient toilets during covid to ensure that each school complies with the regulations
  - b. Schools with high learner enrolment where proper toilets were to be provided as additional to comply with Norms and Standards.
  - c. The total number of the above toilets are 23 and will be addressed in the 25/26 financial year **(11 are in Nkangala District, 3 in Gert Sibande District and 8 in Bohlabela District).**
  - d. There are a total number of 13 schools which still using pits because they were provided with flushing toilets, however they are non functional due to water challenges. **(3 are in Nkangala District, 4 in Gert Sibande District ,5 in Ehlanzeni District and 1 in Bohlabela District).** The Province still exploring strategies to resolve these challenges, also targeting to resolve the issue in the 25/26.
  - e. There are 13 schools with toilets now which need demolition only without provision more, they are currently under implementation. **(3 are in Nkangala District, 1 in Ehlanzeni District and 9 in Bohlabela District).**

## 6. Targets for the MTEF

MTEF TARGETS			
Programme	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Number of New Schools	1	2	1
Replacement Schools	3	3	7
Provision / Replacement of Sanitation	23	25	22
Provision / Upgrade of Water	17	20	25
Provision / Upgrade of Electricity	0	0	0
Maintenance Projects	191	160	142
Additional Classrooms (Conventional)	53	85	46
Grade R Classrooms	12	16	14
Provision / Upgrade of Fence	30	30	31
Boarding Schools	0	0	0
ECD (New)	2	3	4
ECD (Renovation)	9	3	3

❖ **5 Year key Priorities** - The province has planned to implement 111 projects in response to overcrowding and eradication of asbestos and community built structures:

- ❑ 7 schools replacement schools currently operating in mobiles ( **3 in Bohlabela District, 1 in Ehlanzeni District, 3 in Nkangala District**).
- ❑ 10 New schools (**3 in Ehlanzeni District, 3 in Gert Sibande, 4 in Nkangala District**).
- ❑ 13 replacement of community built schools (**9 in Bohlabela District, 2 in Ehlanzeni District, 1 in Gert Sibande, 1 in Nkangala District**).

## 6a. MTEF New and replacement plans

❑ 81 schools with Asbestos structures

❖ The asbestos are in all the four districts as follows;

District	No. of Schools
Gert Sibande	27
Nkangala	39
Ehlanzeni	10
Bohlabela	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>

## 7. School Furniture Achievements and Plans

School Furniture						Total achieved
Description	2020/21 No of furniture Units delivered	2021/22 No of furniture Units delivered	2022/23 No of furniture Units delivered	2023/24 No of furniture Units delivered	2024/25 No of furniture Units delivered	2020/21- 2024/25
<b>TOTAL</b>	36 720	0	49 330	2 840	11 257	88 890

- ❖ Over and above furniture provisioning, the province managed to resource a new boarding school with equipment in the past 5 years. These equipment amongst others includes laundry machines, kitchen equipment and freezers.
- ❖ The department also provided equipment to 30 technical schools to support learning and teaching and practical work for mechanical, electrical and civil technology
- ❖ Maths science laboratory equipment to 141 schools offering mathematics and physical sciences
- ❑ The province also managed to resource laboratories and libraries on the newly completed schools.

❑ Below are MTEF Plans

SCHOOL FURNITURE MTEF TARGETS			
DESCRIPTION	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
<b>LEARNERS' FURNITURE</b>	18 250	24 800	27 300
<b>TEACHERS' FURNITURE</b>	1 950	2 550	30 20
<b>TOTAL</b>	20 200	2 7350	30 320

# 8. Challenges and Mitigation

No	Challenge	Proposed Improvement Strategy
<b>1</b>	<b>Infrastructure planning deficiencies resulting in non-compliance with Infrastructure Delivery Management System (IDMS) prescripts requiring :</b>	
1.1	Needs raised outside the department's business processes.	Strengthen Community feedback mechanisms through Education stakeholders' consultation as well as broader community. The Province developed circulars as part of communication to remind schools and circuits to have meetings of needs identification annually.
1.2	Delayed infrastructure delivery due to site identification and confirmation.	internally ensuring that land is identified in line with the department's needs as identified U-AMP and IPMP. Developing and management of land bank in line with Municipal Spatial Development Frameworks and Municipal IDPs. The Department continues to engage municipalities in fast growing towns where new schools are required, regarding acquiring land for the schools.
<b>Non-credible Infrastructure Plans leading to inadequate budget spending</b>		
2.1.	In-year Cancellation of projects against the approved plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the NEIMS conditions assessments to verify infrastructure needs identified through the prioritisation process. The NEIMS Conditions assessments is currently underway as at October 2024.</li> </ul>

## 8.Challenges and Mitigation

No	Challenge	Proposed Improvement Strategy
3.	Inadequate programme monitoring and management due to limited monthly travel kilometres per official.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved districts' capacity to closely monitor the projects</li><li>• Conducting in-house training and mentorship sessions in partnership with DBE and Provincial Treasury.</li><li>• Developed project monitoring and evaluation tool used for early identification and reporting of problematic projects.</li></ul>
4.	High staff turnover on DoRA funded technical posts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Immediate recruitment and appointment once posts are vacated.</li><li>• Retention strategies include continuous training and mentorship as well as availing tools of trade, decent office space and furniture.</li></ul>

### Implementing Agent (IA) Related Challenges

5	Late Appointment of Service Providers by the IA leading to Under spending on the infrastructure programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensuring that MDOE is submitting the Infrastructure Plans (U-AMP, IPMP and Construction Procurement Strategy) to the IA in line with the timeframes stipulated by the Division of Revenue Act and the Education Infrastructure Grant Framework (EIG)</li></ul>
6.	Slow and late commencement with construction works after site hand over and disruptions by communities and other interest groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The IA to engage relevant stakeholders to engage communities on the issue of the 30% local content.</li></ul>

## 9. Recommendations

- ❖ It is hereby recommended that the National Council of Provinces notes the progress made in providing proper infrastructure and equipment to ensure quality education outcomes and a safe and healthy learning experience for learners.



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