



**Policy debate on Budget Vote 16: Basic Education, Appropriation Bill**

**FF Plus: MAP de Bruyn**

**7 June 2023**

Chair

The state of basic education in South Africa is by far not satisfactory, and the government's efforts to improve the situation over the last decade have not yielded any positive results. An international study has revealed that 81% of grade 4 pupils in SA can't read with understanding.

This means the majority of our young learners have already fallen behind before they even got a proper chance to succeed.

This needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency. And the government needs to work hand in hand with all stakeholders, including communities, parents, teachers, and learners, to improve it.

We believe that education is the key to unlocking South Africa's full potential. But because of this department's failures, the government has failed to do so.

As gevolg van die departement is daar 'n tekort aan gekwalifiseerde onderwysers, swak infrastruktuur in skole, onvoldoende toegang tot onderwys vir kinders in arm gemeenskappe en 'n gebrek aan betrokke ouerskap om maar 'n paar te noem.

Na dit bekend geword dat 81% van gr. 4's in 2021 nie met begrip kon lees nie, het die minister ewe trots aangekondig dat haar departement besig is met die finalisering van die hersiene nasionale leerplan om hierdie probleem of eerder skande te beredder. Dit is nie 'n prestasie nie agbare minister. Dit moes in die eerste plek nie tot hierdie punt gekom het nie.

Leesvaardighede kan slegs doeltreffend verbeter as daar in die grondslagfase saam met opvang programme dringend gefokus word op die aanstelling van spesialis opvoeders én terapeutiese dienste. "Ons skole het meer maatskaplike werkers, arbeids-, spraak- en fisioterapeute nodig en minder onbevoegde opvoeders wat in poste in gedruk word op enige kriteria behalwe meriete.

**FF Plus Head Office**

[a] Block 8, Highveld Office Park,  
11 Charles de Gaulle Crescent,  
Gauteng, 0169, South Africa  
[p] P.O. Box 67391, Highveld Park,  
[t] +27 12 665 0564 [f] +27 12 665 2420  
[w] www.vfplus.org.za [e] info@vf.co.za

**FF Plus Parliament**

[a] Good Hope Building, Room 99,  
Parliament, Cape Town, 8001  
[p] P.O. Box 15, Cape Town, 8000  
[t] +27 21 403 8653  
[w] www.vfplus.org.za [e] wanda@vfplus.org.za



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Dr. Jaco Deacon, uitvoerende hoof van Fedsas het onlangs in 'n media verklaring gesê dat geld in die onderwys departement in die verkeerde rigting vloei.

En tereg so as ons kyk na hoe die begroting voorsiening maak vir R121,5 miljoen aan die “National Education Collaboration Trust”. Dié trust is geskep as platform vir samewerking met rolspelers en vir die private sektor om onderwys by te staan. Nou het dit egter verander in 'n parallelle struktuur wat 'n groot hap van die begroting ontvang.

Verder noem hy dat die “Die Presidensiële Jeug indiensnemings projek, wat deel vorm van die presidensiële indiensneming-stimulus program, is veronderstel om deur die presidensie gefinansier te word. “Dit is moeilik om te begryp hoe R6,9 miljard van die onderwysbegroting nou hiervoor gebruik word.

Dit is fondse wat beter aangewend kon word in infrastruktuur en die nodige hulpmiddels wat ons leerders brood nodig het vandag. Maar soos gewoonlik word daar geprioritiseer in enige belang behalwe in dié van ons leerders wat eendag die toekoms moet wees.

Chair

For years the FF+ pleaded to this department to give every child in South Africa the benefit of mother tongue education. In our 2019 manifesto, it was clearly stated and I quote.

“Neglecting mother-tongue education contributes to poor performance and a high dropout rate. The fact that Afrikaans- and English-speaking learners receive instruction in their mother tongue explains why a larger percentage of these Grade 1 learners go on to complete Grade 12.

Even at tertiary level, mother-tongue education has measurable benefits. Thus, the foundation of the FF Plus's educational policy is that all learners must have access to mother-tongue education – it will, of course, not be forced on anyone.

Early childhood development is of the utmost importance and must be the responsibility of the Department of Education and not the Department of Social Development.

At present, South Africa's expenditure on this phase of education is one of the lowest in the world. The most important formative years in a child's life are between the ages of zero to four years as that is when the brain develops the fastest.

If proper development does not occur during these formative years, children may struggle in school later on. Quality early childhood development training will improve learners' performance in school and address the problem of a poor throughput rate." Close quote.

But this depart will rather sink the ship, than take good advice for the sake of our youth

Kortom gestel voorsitter, die Departement van Basiese Onderwys het nie die vermoë om aan ons kinders se behoeftes te voldoen nie. En die ANC-regering in geheel sien dit ook nie as 'n prioriteit nie.

Daar word beraam dat korrupsie in staats entiteite soos Eskom en Transnet die land ongeveer R500 miljard gekos het. Die begroting vir basiese onderwys is tans R31,8 miljard.

Dit kom daarop neer dat meer as 15 jaar se begroting vir onderwys eerder deur die ANC regering gesteel was as om in die toekoms van ons kinders te belê. Dit voorsitter is hoe die ANC Suid-Afrikaners kamstig bemagtig.

Die publiek daar buite se oë het begin oopgegaan oor die jare heen voorsitter en die ANC gaan die gevolge dra kom 2024.

Dankie



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**MAP de Bruyn**