**African Christian Democratic Party**

**12 July 2019

ACDP Parliament
Budget Vote 15: Higher Education and Training
Speech by Wayne Thring MP**

**SA’s grade 6 learners found to be more functionally illiterate and innumerate, than their Kenyan counterparts**

“Chairperson,

The ACDP notes the budget allocation for the Department sitting at R108.3 billion, with 96.23 % of the budget, excluding direct charges, going to University Education and Technical and Vocational Education and Training.

We welcome the allocation of R135.4 million for computer services, the second largest line item in goods and services, as we prepare our students for what is commonly known as the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The Department’s 2019/20 budget has to sustain 50 TVET colleges, with 264 campuses across the country and 26 Universities, with at least one in each of the nine provinces.

Within the education sector, 2018/19 basket allocation, Basic Education receives some R262.4 billion, while Higher Education receives R108.3 billion, a total of R370.3 billion, or more than 20% of our National budget.

It must be mentioned that South Africa spends more, per capita, and as a percentage of our GDP, on education than most of our counterparts, and yet produces some of the poorest results. The last Progress in International Reading Literacy Study, revealed that as many as 78% of our Grade 4 learners in South Africa are not able to read in any language. The picture in Math and Science is not encouraging either. When compared to our Kenyan counterparts, our Grade 6 students were found to be more functionally illiterate and innumerate.

Why is this important? It is important because it speaks to the quality of the student who enters the corridors of Higher Education.

It is important because we set our students up for failure, if they are not adequately prepared at foundation and basic education phases.

It is important because we cannot engage in social and sexual engineering programs in basic education, by making History a compulsory subject, and teaching our children how to engage in masturbation, oral, anal and same sex, through CSE, while simultaneously wanting to promote math, science and coding.

It is important because if we wish to have Higher Learning institutions of excellence, then we must address the paralyzing effect of unions in our schools.

It is important because if we wish to remove the scourge of poverty, inequality and unemployment, then we cannot have NSFAS limping and operating in crises mode.

It is important because if we desire to have a developmental state, a healthy, vibrant and prosperous state, for all who live in it, that is able to compete with and hold its own against the rest of the world, then we must have a competent, honest, ethical and educated academia and citizenry.

Chairperson, it must be mentioned and instilled in our learners, that you do not destroy, damage and burn what you have, in order to get what you don’t have. They must be encouraged to never become a prisoner of their past, for their past was just a lesson, not a life sentence. Our learners must know that difficult past and present circumstances, are not determinants of their future.”

**-END-

For more information contact: Wayne Thring MP, Cell: 083-623-1240

Media enquiries: Keeno Petersen, Media Liaison Officer, ACDP - Parliament, Tel: 021-403-3307 or Cell: 073-580-2902 or Email:** **kpetersen@parliament.gov.za** **Subscribe to our social media accounts:

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