



Province of the  
**EASTERN CAPE**  
EDUCATION

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Education professional Services

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4 December 2020

The Basic Education Sector  
Eastern Cape

Dear Colleagues

### **BUDGET CUTS**

It has been widely reported in the media, and in correspondence to you, that the ECDOE is facing huge budget cuts. This is due to the Covid – 19 pandemic. It is not only the education sector that has been facing these budget cuts. All other sectors in the country are also facing the same challenges.

As reported before, the budget cuts came as a big surprise. When budgets were done in 2019, at national, provincial and school level, nobody expected the Covid 19 pandemic, and nobody could plan for such. Unfortunately, the financial effect of the pandemic will be felt for a number of years to come.

In the past, we also experienced a reduction in budget, or at least a reduction in the expected increase in the budget. This was normally announced well in advance and enabled us to plan around it. This time it is different.

The current budget cuts will affect us all. It will affect service delivery, planned events, procurement of goods and services, subsidies, and cost of employees (COE).

At head office and district offices, we have accepted the challenge, and we are in the process of engaging, planning and implementing cost-cutting measures across the board, affecting us all.

It must be emphasised that when school subsidies are reduced, it is done with all due sympathy, and as a very last resort. The department is about providing quality education, and that is our main priority. We understand the effect that funding may have on quality education; therefore it is done as a very last resort.

Principals and SMT's are urged to plan for reduced funding over the foreseeable future. Schools will have to re-prioritise, reconsider, and show extra-ordinary creativity and initiative to make the books balance. We will have to continuously determine and distinguish between necessities to provide quality education, and luxuries which do not make a critical contribution to quality education. Schools will have to work together, share resources, and with less money, strive to continue providing quality education. In the current economic environment, it will not be easy, but we are left with no choice.

Let us all always remember our responsibility towards our children.

Stay safe, and never stop caring.

Kind regards

*Themba Kojana*  
**THEMBA KOJANA**  
**SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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