



Northern Cape
Provincial Legislature

NC Parli Melt

VIGILANT ALWAYS FOR OUR PEOPLE

FEBRUARY-APRIL 2025 EDITION



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As we embark on the 7th Legislative Term, I extend warm greetings to all readers of NC Parli Melt. This term marks a renewed era of commitment to the values of ethical leadership, good governance, and people-centred service delivery.

With our newly adopted vision of being “A transformative Legislature that represents and advances the interests and aspirations of the people of the Northern Cape”, We are entering a chapter grounded in innovation, sustainability, and accountability. The Legislature’s mandate—Law-Making, Oversight, and Public Participation—remain our cornerstone as we strive to uphold the expectations of our citizens.

It is with great pride that we welcomed MPL Sharifa Ferris as the newly elected Deputy Speaker of the Legislature. Her unopposed election reflects the trust placed in her leadership, and we look forward to her contribution in steering key committees and supporting the Legislature's constitutional duties.

Our ongoing engagements with stakeholders—including institutions of higher learning and regional counterparts like the Namibian Parliament—reinforce our dedication to collaboration, learning, and continuous improvement.

Together, through robust oversight, strategic partnerships, and an unwavering focus on public interest, we are committed to building a Legislature that truly reflects the voice and will of the people of the Northern Cape.

Notes from the Speakers Office

2025 STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS

NORTHERN CAPE LEGISLATURE SUCCESSFULLY HOSTS 2025 STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS

BY THABANG MASAKA

On Thursday 6 March 2025, the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature successfully hosted the opening of the 2nd session of the 7th Legislative term at the Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre in Kimberley.

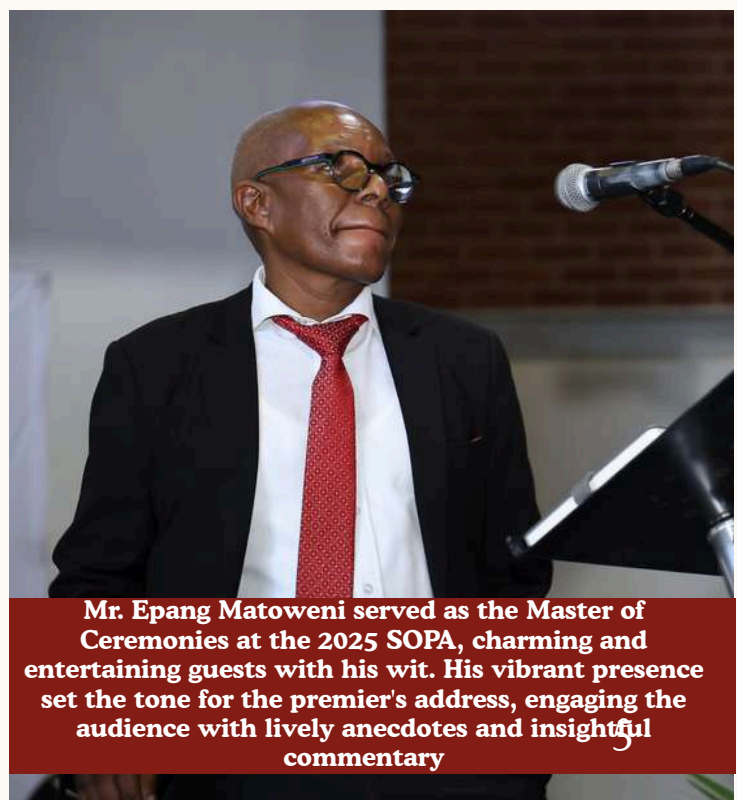
During his speech, Premier of the Northern Cape Dr Zamani Saul placed key focus on the provinces economic recovery, infrastructure development, and improved governance. His address, highlighted the Northern Cape governments priorities for the year ahead and reflected on the provinces key achievements over the past year.

The Premier reported that more than 35,000 jobs had been created in 2024, with growth driven by sectors such as construction, mining and renewable energy. To further support job creation and small business development, the Premier announced an allocation of R60 million through the Northern Cape SMME Trust Fund. He also stressed that building an inclusive economy remained a central objective for the province.

Infrastructure featured prominently in the address, with over 100 reported projects currently being implemented under the Infrastructure Strategic Projects Pipeline. These include upgrades to roads, public facilities and bulk services . The projects aim to improve service delivery while laying the groundwork for sustained investment and growth.



Premier Zamani Saul's 2025 State of the Province Address outlined Northern Cape's path to economic recovery, infrastructure growth, and better governance, emphasizing job creation and inclusive economy.



Mr. Epang Matoweni served as the Master of Ceremonies at the 2025 SOPA, charming and entertaining guests with his wit. His vibrant presence set the tone for the premier's address, engaging the audience with lively anecdotes and insightful commentary

2025 STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS

BUILDING A MODERN GROWING AND SUCCESSFUL NORTHERN CAPE

The Premier reaffirmed the province’s role in driving South Africa’s energy transition. He cited major developments in renewable energy, including solar, wind, and green hydrogen initiatives. Among them is the Boegoebaai Green Hydrogen Project, valued at R10 billion, which is expected to create new economic opportunities while contributing to national energy security.

Shifting focus to governance, Dr Saul acknowledged challenges in municipal performance and pledged stricter oversight and intervention in underperforming municipalities. He noted the need to restore basic services, particularly in water supply, electricity, and infrastructure maintenance, and called for a renewed focus on ethical and effective governance.

In the social sector, he reported that 30 schools had been renovated and 1000 new teaching posts had been filled during the year. In healthcare, the province expanded mobile clinic services and invested in hospital upgrades, aiming to improve access in remote and rural areas.

In closing, the Premier called for continued commitment to disciplined & result driven leadership. He urged residents of the Northern Cape to reject populism and support efforts grounded in accountability, pragmatism, and service delivery.



MOMENTS FROM THE 2025 STATE OF THE PROVINCE



2025 STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS DEBATE HIGHLIGHTS



BY THABANG MASAKA

On 11 March 2025, the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature held the State of the Province Debate in the NCPL Chambers. The debate provided a platform for MPLs to discuss key issues affecting the province, including economic development, service delivery, and governance.

MEC F. Makatong opened the discussion, emphasizing efforts to address historical land injustices through new legislation. She highlighted the government's commitment to creating job opportunities and driving economic growth through infrastructure projects, skills development, and special economic zones.

MPL. H. McGlulwa followed, focusing on the province's developmental challenges. He stressed the importance of improving public services, infrastructure and expanding economic opportunities to uplift communities across the Northern Cape.

MPL. S. Tlhaole took a critical stance on government practices, advocating for more equitable economic development, particularly in mining regions. He urged for a stronger focus on local community empowerment and fair resource distribution.

The debate continued with contributions from MPL. H. Ferris (Patriotic Alliance) and MPL. I. Joubert (FF+), both emphasizing the need for accountable and transparent governance. They called for prioritizing fundamental public needs, including education, healthcare, and economic growth.

MPL Dr. N. Shushu concluded the debate by reflecting on the ANC's progress in addressing historical inequalities and transforming South African society. Highlighting the party's commitment to social and economic justice.



MEC Fufe Makatong



MPL Harold Mcgluwa



MPL Shadrack Thloale



MPL Sharifa Ferris



MPL Theo Joubert



MPL Dr Norman Shushu



SOPA DEBATE REPLY SPEECH RECAP

BY THABANG MASAKA

On 12 March 2025, the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature reconvened for a House Sitting that featured two key orders of the day: the Premier's Reply to the State of the Province Debate and the Election of the Deputy Speaker.

In his response, Premier Dr. Zamani Saul focused on national dialogue, land expropriation, and socio-economic challenges in South Africa. Reaffirming the province's commitment to land redistribution, announcing plans to allocate over 150,000 hectares to previously disadvantaged communities.

Education and healthcare were highlighted as the top priorities. The Premier noted the province's significant improvement in the matric pass rate, which increased from 75% to 84%. Premier Saul outlined investments in healthcare infrastructure to enhance service delivery.

Dr. Saul also addressed historical land expropriation, anti-corruption efforts, and the government's ongoing initiatives to improve quality of life for its citizens. Reiterating the province's dedication to economic development and social justice through targeted policies and reforms.

The two-day discussions underscored the legislature's commitment to constructive engagement and progressive governance. These deliberations set the stage for further actions aimed at addressing key challenges and advancing development in the Northern Cape.



CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER WITH THE EDITOR



WHAT THIS NEW FEATURE IS ABOUT:

Beyond the podium—into the heart of the Legislature.

From the chamber to the people—one voice at a time.

*Inside perspectives.
Honest answers.
Meaningful change.*

We're proud to launch a new feature in the NC ParliMelt Newsletter—Conversations that Matter with the Editor.

In this series, our Editor, Ms. Carmen Gopane, sits down with key role players in the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature to bring you honest, in-depth conversations about leadership, challenges, and the future of governance in our province. These interviews offer a closer look at the people behind the positions and the decisions that shape the Northern Cape. In our first conversation, she speaks with Deputy Speaker Ferris as she steps into her new role.

IN HER OWN WORDS: DEPUTY SPEAKER FERRIS ON LEADERSHIP AND LEGACY



1. Congratulations on your appointment as Deputy Speaker! What does this new role mean to you personally and professionally?

Deputy Speaker Ferris: Personally, it's more than just a position or title for me. It's a message of hope for young boys and girls coming from difficult backgrounds. It's a message of courage and proof that your circumstances or background should not define your future. It's proof that God can use anyone. It defines purpose and how God prepares and plans for our destined purpose. Professionally, it breathes hope once again for the Patriotic Alliance as well as the Patriotic Alliance community in the Northern Cape. It is the highest position occupied by the Party, which is the new kid on the block. It gives me the opportunity to learn and to serve better. It is also an honour to be part of a two-woman team leading the province. It is a privilege to serve alongside our Speaker, who guides and leads with a motherly heart.

2. What are some of the key priorities or goals you hope to achieve during your term as Deputy Speaker?

Deputy Speaker Ferris: One of the key priorities will be to work collectively with the Speaker and all MPLs by strengthening the working relationship between all parties within the legislature to ensure we meet our common goal—a better life for all living within the Northern Cape. I am committed to creating spaces where everyone can thrive. I envision myself continuing to advocate for social justice, breaking barriers, and empowering others. My journey so far has only fuelled my passion. I want to be someone who not only learns but acts, creating a lasting impact through compassion, dialogue, and action.





Celebrating success and unity! Mpl Sharifa Ferris stands proudly with her fellow party members, Mpl Rashad Jaffer and Mpl David Davids, after her election as Deputy Speaker.

Fast Facts:
Deputy Speaker Sharifa Ferris



MPL Sharifa celebrates her election as Deputy Speaker of the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature with her predecessor, Mr. Mangaliso Matika, who now serves in the Executive Council

3. How do you see your role in strengthening public participation and deepening democracy within the province?

Deputy Speaker Ferris: As a Member of the Provincial Legislature (MPL), being voted in not by myself but by the people of this province, it is my duty—and that of every other MPL—to ensure that our core mandate is met: oversight, accountability, and law-making. To better serve the Northern Cape, it is imperative that we take the legislature to the people, educating them on our roles and how they, as community members, play a pivotal role, especially in terms of law-making. Improving access to information is needed, and voter education is of utmost importance. Through public participation, we can ensure that communities have a say in the law-making process of this province. It is only when the people who voted us into these positions are heard and served that we can truly say we are working towards a truly democratic province. I believe this is achievable with teamwork and a common goal: to serve the people of the Northern Cape to the best of our ability.

4. In your view, what is the importance of the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature being accessible and accountable to the people?

Deputy Speaker Ferris: Accessibility and accountability should be the top priorities. Our core mandate as party representatives is to serve those who have placed their trust in us. We are the voice for those who cannot participate in discussions. Therefore, we have a duty to be accessible to serve and accountable to the people, as well as to hold the executive accountable.

5. What message would you like to share with the youth and future leaders of the Northern Cape as you take on this leadership role?

Deputy Speaker Ferris: Never allow your current location to determine your destination. Always remember that to whom much is given, much is required. While the road ahead may be fraught with challenges, let the collective spirit of those fighting for equality inspire you. Each of us have a vital role in shaping a future where everyone is empowered and free from discrimination. Let us be the change we wish to see—a united force working for a world where equality is a reality for all. By doing this, we can build a legacy of hope, compassion, and justice for future generations.

- Position Appointed: Deputy Speaker of the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature
- Date of Election: Elected unopposed during a House Sitting on 12 March 2025
- Predecessor: Succeeds MPL Mangaliso Matika, appointed to the Executive Council
- Presiding Officer at Election: Speaker Newrene Klaaste

Key Responsibilities

- Chairperson of the:
 - Programming Committee
 - Committee on Ethics and Conduct
 - Standing Committee on Internal Arrangements
- Acting Speaker Duties: Will assume all powers and functions of the Speaker in their absence, as outlined in Section 111 of the Constitution of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996)
- Core Legislative Role: Ensures order, fairness, and adherence to the Rules of the House during proceedings

Institutional Significance

- Marks the highest position held to date by the Patriotic Alliance within the Legislature
- Reflects a continued commitment to inclusive leadership, progressive governance, and responsive service delivery
- Strengthens the Legislature’s mandate of law-making, oversight, and public participation

NORTHERN CAPE TABLES R23 BILLION BUDGET FOR 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Northern Cape Provincial Government has tabled a budget of R23.027 billion for the 2025/26 financial year, with key allocations directed towards education, health, and social development. The budget was presented by MEC for Finance, Economic Development, and Tourism, Ms. Venus Blennies-Magage, under the theme “Consolidating service delivery gains and reigniting inclusive growth for sustainable livelihoods.”

MAJOR ALLOCATIONS

- EDUCATION: R8.7 BILLION
- HEALTH: R6.2 BILLION
- SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: R1.2 BILLION



The speech emphasized the province’s intention to balance service delivery with long-term economic development, particularly in light of constrained national growth. The South African economy is projected to grow by 1.6% in 2025.

Economic Development and Infrastructure:

MEC Blennies-Magage highlighted infrastructure investment as a key driver of growth, with R8.1 billion allocated across various sectors including road construction, schools, and healthcare facilities. The province also plans to expand broadband connectivity as part of its digital strategy.

Support for small businesses and job creation is another focus area. With R118.4 million being earmarked for youth employment and enterprise development initiatives.

Sector Growth Opportunities: The provincial government is prioritizing growth in sectors such as renewable energy, mining, tourism, and agriculture. The green hydrogen initiative and other renewable energy projects are expected to support the national Just Energy Transition framework while creating local employment opportunities.

In tourism, efforts will continue to boost local and rural tourism, particularly by supporting small operators and reviving the post-COVID visitor economy.

Governance and Oversight: The MEC reiterated the province’s commitment to fiscal discipline, improved governance, and ethical leadership. The budget also includes measures to strengthen procurement processes and reduce wasteful expenditure.

“We must deliver with greater speed and integrity,” said Blennies-Magage. Noting that the budget is not only a financial instrument but also a policy tool aimed at transforming the provincial economy.



“We must deliver with greater speed and integrity.”
— MEC Venus Blennies-Magage



Senior Managers from the Department of Finance, Economic Development, and Tourism



MPL Fawzia Rhoda and MPL Shadrack Tlhaole share their insights with the SABC, reacting to the province's ambitious plans for balancing service delivery with sustainable economic growth after the budget speech.



Study Visit of the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature to the National Council of Namibia

BY MPHO MERRIMAN

The Speaker of the Legislature, Ms. Newrene Klaaste, led a delegation of Members of the Provincial Legislature, including officials, on a week-long visit to the Republic of Namibia. The purpose of this benchmarking exercise was to discuss key aspects of legislative governance with an emphasis on Oversight, Public Participation, Lawmaking, and to improve aspects related to resolution tracking.

Objectives The legislature aimed to:

- Understand the legislative frameworks and practices contributing to the success of the Namibian Council.
- Learn and implement some of Namibia's best practices.

Reception The delegation was received and welcomed by the Chairperson of the National Council, MPL. Lukas Sinimbo Muha.

KEY DISCUSSIONS THE BENCHMARKING EXERCISE ENTAILED DISCUSSIONS ON:

1. Oversight
2. Public Participation
3. Lawmaking
4. Member's Statements and Commitments
5. Resolution Tracking

- **Observing House Proceedings:** Members and officials attended a Sitting by the National Council of Namibia to observe their House proceedings.
- **Presentation on Lawmaking:** The delegation received a comprehensive presentation on law making from the Director of Specialized Services, Mr. Barney Karuumombe. Members delved into the intricacies of legislative processes, gaining valuable insights into the development and passage of laws, including debates, amendment of bills, and enactment stages.
- **Observing the National Assembly:** The delegation observed a Sitting of the National Assembly, providing a deeper understanding of their house procedures.
- **Presentation on Legislative Oversight:** The legislature presented its perspective on its constitutional requirements for legislative oversight.
- **Presentation on Public Participation:** This was followed by a presentation on public participation by the Acting Manager responsible for Oversight and Public Participation, Ms. Nathalia Borchard.



Speaker Newrene Klaaste is all ears and laser-focused during presentations on the study tour in Namibia, soaking up insights on lawmaking, legislative oversight, and public participation.

Cultural Visit The delegation, accompanied by Members of the Council of Namibia and protocol officers, visited the Independence Memorial Museum in Windhoek, Namibia. This historic museum showcased the country's journey to independence, highlighting the anti-colonial resistance which resulted in the ultimate national liberation of the people of Namibia.

The study tour was an enlightening experience that not only deepened the delegation's understanding of Namibia's legislative framework but also inspired them to implement some of the best practices observed during the visit.



Pictured Chief Whip of the Legislature, Dr. Norman Shushu, is attentive and fully engaged during presentations on the study tour in Namibia.



LEARNING ACROSS BORDERS: MPLS TAKE NOTES IN NAMIBIA



ON THE GROUND IN NAMIBIA: MPLS IN ACTION





NCPL FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAMME

Empowering Future Leaders Service-Learning Initiative

-SHAPING YOUNG MINDS FOR ACTIVE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY IMPACT-

BY MPHONG MOENG

The Northern Cape Provincial Legislature (NCPL) was privileged to collaborate with various institutions of higher learning in the Empowering Future Leaders Service-Learning Initiative. This inaugural NCPL Future Leaders Programme marked an essential step in fostering partnerships between the legislature and academic institutions within the province. This collaborative initiative provided students with experiential learning opportunities, focusing on public education, participation, and the legislature's oversight role. By inviting university and TVET college students from across the province to the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature, participants were introduced to its operations. Through this platform, the students, as future leaders, engaged in policy discussions with the Speaker N Klaaste, Members of the Provincial Legislature, MPL Kibi, MPL De Huis and MPL Joubert and Member of Parliament, Mr Tshepo Louw. The two-day "Future Leaders Programme" was held at Moremogolo College Hall on the 4th and 5th of March 2025, drawing approximately 130 student leaders.

Day 1: Engaging in Policy Discussions

On the first day, students from Sol Plaatje University and Urban and Rural TVET colleges representing all five districts engaged robustly with the Speaker of the Northern Cape Province, Members of the Provincial Legislature, and a Member of Parliament. The discussions focused on the critical oversight role of the legislature in promoting transparency and accountability. The primary aim was to provide students with a platform to participate in policy dialogues that influence the development of their province and the country. The session emphasized the importance of inclusivity in governance, ensuring that citizens, particularly the youth, have a voice in political and legislative processes. Students gained insights into the legislative process and its relevance to their lives. The day fostered a deeper understanding of governance by offering students firsthand experience in legislative operations. These experiences equipped them with the knowledge and skills needed to assume leadership roles and contribute meaningfully to democracy.

Day 2 : Stepping into the Legislature's Oversight Role

The Future Leader programme focused on a Mock Oversight session designed to provide students with practical insights into the oversight functions of the legislature. Students led the Mock Committee meetings and conducted Mock Oversight visits to local government service institutions, including the Local Police Station, Thuthuzela Centre, and Moremogolo Campus. These visits provided an opportunity to observe institutional governance and service delivery processes. Participants were organized into roles such as committee coordinators, researchers, governing party members, opposition members, role of Chairperson to simulate the oversight process. This hands-on activity offered students a unique, immersive experience, enabling them to appreciate the complexity and significance of legislative oversight.

These activities enhanced students' critical thinking, presentation abilities, and civic engagement, empowering them to become informed, proactive participants in democratic processes. Through this initiative, the NCPL has taken a significant step in preparing the next generation of leaders, ensuring that they are equipped with the knowledge and experience necessary to contribute meaningfully to governance and society.

Objectives and Impact of the Mock Oversight Sessions

The Mock Oversight sessions aimed to:

- Provide firsthand experience in evaluating institutional governance, operations, and service delivery.
- Develop critical skills in identifying challenges, proposing solutions, and presenting findings.
- Introduce students to the parliamentary oversight process, including report drafting and stakeholder engagement.
- Foster awareness of public accountability and civic responsibility.

These activities enhanced students' critical thinking, presentation abilities, and civic engagement, empowering them to become informed, proactive participants in democratic processes. Through this initiative, the NCPL has taken a significant step in preparing the next generation of leaders, ensuring that they are equipped with the knowledge and experience necessary to contribute meaningfully to governance and society.



IN PICUTERS: NCPL FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAMME



NCPL FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAMME MOCK OVERSIGHT VISITS

BY REITUMETSE MOOKI AND TUMO DIKGETSI

The second day of NCPL Future Leaders program kicked off with high energy and enthusiasm from all participants. Students were divided into groups of mock committees for the oversight visits, as part of the core mandate of the legislature.

A mock Portfolio Committee on Basic & Higher Education conducted their oversight visit to Moremogolo TVET College, while the Safety and Liaison committee went to the Phakamile Mabija Police station and the Portfolio Committee on Health visited the Thuthuzela Care Centre on Tuesday, 5 March 2025. This exercise aimed to provide students with practical experience on the oversight role of the legislature and its significance in ensuring accountability and effective service delivery.

Led by MP Tshepo Louw, who serves on the Portfolio Committee on Basic and Higher Education in the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa. The mock committee in Moremogolo TVET college highlighted several issues related to NSFAS allowances, accessibility to safe accommodation, the safety of the campus, initiatives on fundraising for sanitary towels for female students, recognition and inclusion of LGBTQ+ community.

This procession was followed by a tour of the different campus facilities. The committee members followed up on what the day-to-day operations of the campus , what the challenges the institution face in terms of delivering quality education to their learners, whether the students abide by the safety requirements on the tools of trade and how often do they record accidents while training the students in becoming professional artisans.

Accompanied by the Chairperson of the Safety Committee, MPL S Ferris, Committee Coordinator on Education, Sports, Arts and Culture, Mr D Fritz and John Taolo Gaetsewe Regional Liaison Officer, Mr J Manhe; the purpose of the mock portfolio committee of Safety and Liaison’s oversight was to assess the police station’s operations and infrastructure. To ensure that the station delivers quality services to the community while maintaining effective and efficient operations.

During the briefing session, MPL S Ferris encouraged students to ask questions about issues that affect them.

“I want you to think of things that makes it difficult for us as community members to get services from SAPS,” Ferris advised the students.



Representing the police station was the Support and Exhibit Manager, Colonel Koopman, and Sergeant Van Wyk from the Youth Forum Matter and Settlements. When addressing the safety of student residences, Koopman highlighted the high incidence of cell phone and laptop thefts, and emphasized the need for increased awareness.

“On a daily basis, our sectors go out for patrols, stop-and-search operations, and raise awareness about social crime,” Koopman responded when asked about the frequency of patrols in communities and student residents.

Thuthuzela Care Centre (TCC) is a facility for rape victims, offering medical, counselling and legal support. Led by Z.F Mgcawu Regional Liaison Officer, Mr Zweni, the mock portfolio committee on Health noted the contribution of TCC on the livelihoods of the survivors of Gender-Based Violence and sexual harassment, and recommending more awareness on this facility.

In conclusion of the oversight visits, all committees convened at Moremogolo TVET college, where the programme was followed by a mock house sitting. The Chairpersons of the three committees tabled their reports to the house. NCPL is proud to have started a groundbreaking initiative, as it believes that nurturing the next generation in governance is pivotal as students are the future leaders of our province and country.



UNDERSTANDING THE THREE PILLARS OF GOVERNMENT: LEGISLATURE, EXECUTIVE, AND JUDICIARY

These three arms work together to maintain a balanced and functional government while ensuring accountability and rule of law. The Three Arms of Government are:



The Provincial Legislature

This institution appropriates the provincial budget, and makes rules or laws that citizens have to obey. The Legislature also plays an oversight role by carefully scrutinizing the activities of the Executive.



The Executive

This Arm of Government implements laws and decisions that are made by the Legislature. The Premier, who is the head of the ruling party, chooses Members of the Executive Council (MECs) from the MPLs of his/her party. Each MEC is responsible for a particular department and takes on the title of "MEC". For instance, the Member of the Executive Council heading the Education Department is called the MEC for Education.



The Judiciary

This is the third Arm of Government that ensures that the laws made by the Legislature are followed, and punishes anyone who breaks the law. The Courts assume the most prominent role in the Judiciary.