



treasury

Department of  
Treasury  
FREE STATE PROVINCE

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**To: All High school Principals**

Dear Principal

## **INVITATION: 2025 GRADE 12 PROVINCIAL BUDGET ESSAY COMPETITION**

1. This invites your school to the **2025 Grade 12 Provincial Budget Essay competition**.
2. **The competition is a partnership between the Provincial Treasury and the Department of Education.**
3. The primary objective of the competition is to improve economic literacy and participation amongst the youth in the budget process in the province.
4. The competition allows learners to input into the provincial budget speech.
5. **The 2025 Grade 12 Provincial Budget Essay Competition topic is the following:**

### **The Topic:**

**“How can the Provincial Budget be used to promote skills development necessary for economic growth? Given a forty-two billion budget (R42 billion) to allocate to the province”.**

#### **5.1. Guidelines**

- (a). Discuss how the opportunities for skills development and work readiness of many young people leaving formal secondary and tertiary education and entering the labour market to support economic development.
- (b). Reflect on increasing access to high-quality and relevant education and training, and skills development opportunities, including workplace learning and experience.
- (c). Explain how the budget can be used to improve the efficiency of the skills development system. Indicate how the different departments can employ the budgeted money to support skills training and workplace training by allocating a budget ethically. Show all your budgeted amounts for different departments.

## 5.2. General guidelines

- (a). **Sustainable economic development:** Identify the sectors (Departments) necessary for skills training sustainably.
- (b). Which skills and projects are key to growing the economy? indicate how skills training can benefit job creation and sustainable economic development.
- (c). Link everything to the role of departments in line with ethical budgeting.

## 6. The essay should be structured as follows:

- (a). **Introduction:** defining the provincial budget and the importance of skills training to the economy.
- (b). **Body:** (a) The importance of skill training to job search and improving productivity. Show and discuss the necessary skills identified and allocate the budget accordingly. Indicate how Departments are going to benefit from improved skills.
- (c). **Conclusion.** Indicate how skills-improving projects are going to benefit the economy and job creation.
- (d) The essay must demonstrate sufficient understanding and appreciation of the skills gap and training necessary for job search and improved productivity.
- (e). Identify the challenges facing the skills gaps in the economy.
- (f). Proposals or projects on skills that address job creation, and job search to address youth unemployment.

## 7. Rules of the competition

- (a). The competition is open to all Grade 12 Economics learners in the province and Essays will be accepted in English only.
- (b). Three (3) entrants per school
- (c). The front page should indicate, the learner's details, the school's name and contact details, and the educator's name and contact details.
- (d). The length of the essay should be 3 typed pages or 5 neatly hand-written pages.
- (e). All essays are to be submitted on or before 13h00 on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2025`, through email or seek the assistance of the Economics Learning facilitators or at Room 1126 in Fidel Castro building Bloemfontein (Treasury); email address: [budgetcompetition@treasury.fs.gov.za](mailto:budgetcompetition@treasury.fs.gov.za) or [chomane@treasury.fs.gov.za](mailto:chomane@treasury.fs.gov.za) and [economicpa@treasury.fs.gov.za](mailto:economicpa@treasury.fs.gov.za)
- (f). Emphasis will be placed on originality and innovativeness.

- (g). Top 5 learners and their educators will be informed of the results and the interview process.

**8. Free State Treasury will handle logistics**

**9. The top 5 learners will receive prizes to be determined by the MEC.**

**10. Important Dates to Remember**

- (a). Week of 20 January 2025: the start of the competition with invitations and follow-up reminders to schools.
- (b). 21 February 2025 (Friday): closing date for entries.**
- (c). 28 February 2025: Learners invited for interviews.
- (d). 06 March 2025: Learner interviews.
- (e). 07 March 2025: Budget Day (prize-giving ceremony).

**\*(Interview date and budget day date are subject to revision).**

Your cooperation and support will be highly appreciated.

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**Mr. M.E Mohlahlo**

Head of Department: Free State Provincial Treasury

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_