

School nutrition scheme creates jobs

MONTSHO MATLALA

THE school nutrition programme not only provides food to pupils to ensure improved and effective learning in schools but also creates temporary jobs.

This was said by education MEC Ishmael Kgetjepe, while presenting his department's budget of R30.6bn for the 2018-19 financial year at the provincial legislature sitting in Lebowakgomo recently.

"The department continues to provide nutritious meals for a specific number of feeding days to alleviate hunger among our pupils to contribute to the enhancement of learning capacity.

"Last year, we fed 1 636 228 pupils across the province with a budget of R1.2bn," Kgetjepe said.

"This was for both primary, second-

ary and special schools for 197 school-going days. The programme created 10 524 temporary jobs for food handlers at school level, whose responsibility is to cook for pupils in all benefiting schools. We also received R2.8m from the national Department of Public Works as an incentive grant to expand the programme by creating more job opportunities within the social sector."

The grant from the public works department, made it possible to contract 137 beneficiaries for a period of 12 months, he said.

"In this financial year, the number of beneficiaries has increased from 137 to 555, with the budget amount of R14m. The programme budget has been made available to provide meals to 3 795 schools," Kgetjepe said.

montshom@thenewage.co.za