

NOTE TO PRESIDENT JACOB ZUMA BEFORE HIS STATE OF THE
NATION ADDRESS 2015

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An Education Viewpoint on the necessary focus in President Zuma's State
of the Nation*

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As I see it, the Education temperature of the hot red carpet under President Zuma's feet will rise during his State of the Nation address. On the one hand, there is general concern about the disparity between the largest chunk of the budget that the government invests annually in education and the lack of real, observable, improving success at public schools over the past twenty years. On the other hand, it is my wish that the State speech will also contain other aspects that will somehow relate to education, such as addressing our society's general aggressive, violent reactions and threats that our succession pendulum - indeed not the kind of examples that we ought to set our school children. My research explores various options to make the success stories of public schools more so that role-players (parents, caregivers, teachers, pupils, society) will accept individual and collective responsibility will be accepted for the state of education.

Mr President, as quite possibly the MOST LOYAL citizen, I stand proudly South African when I trust that you will set the example by honestly-responsibly reporting on flash-points - such as corruption in local governments that can force education to its knees; by taking a stand against leaders whose ill-considered remarks lead to criminal incitement that keeps pupils out of school; and by increasing the country's confidence in you by assuming liability for obvious dilemmas from your authoritative position, so that the youth can proudly follow your example!

Idealistic? Definitely. Can these aspects benefit education? Indeed.