

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 2204

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 28/2013)

Mrs A T Lovemore (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

- (1) Whether she has been informed that approximately 250 farm schools in the Free State have only one educator who fulfils the role of principal and teacher;
- (2) whether farm schools in any other province also have only one educator; if so, how many such schools exist in each relevant province;
- (3) whether her department has developed or intends to develop any policy or guideline to discourage the existence of one-teacher schools; if not, how will she address the situation; if so, what are the relevant details? NW2622E

REPLIES:

- (1) Whether she has been informed that approximately 250 farm schools in the Free State have only one educator who fulfils the role of principal and teacher?**

Yes, I am informed. The Free State PED has a unique challenge in terms of the relatively high number of small farm schools as a proportion of its total number of schools. Allocating an additional teacher to each of the farm schools would impact on the overall affordability of the post basket for the PED. The PED is currently implementing a programme to merge and close farm schools. The object is to close all small schools or at least remain with a reasonably smaller number.

- (2) **Whether farm schools in any other province also have only one educator; if so, how many such schools exist in each relevant province?**

The table below shows the number of schools with one educator. KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, North West, Northern Cape, and Western Cape PEDs allocated an additional teacher to all one educator schools. The actual number of schools that qualify for one educator in these PEDs is relatively small in relation to their total post baskets, and as a result the additional allocation has a minimal overall impact.

Province	Total schools in each province
EASTERN CAPE	190
FREE STATE	325
MPUMALANGA	34
Grand Total	549

- (3) **Whether her department has developed or intends to develop any policy or guideline to discourage the existence of one-teacher schools; if not, how will she address the situation; if so, what are the relevant details?**

The Department has a policy in place that determines post provisioning norms to schools. In terms of this policy the Department encourages PEDs to allocate an additional educator to schools that qualify for one educator. PEDs are also encouraged to merge and/or close small schools where it is not viable to continue with the school on sound educational principles in the best interests of learners.