

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 643

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 05/2014)

Ms H S Boshoff (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

- (1) What amount was (a) budgeted for and (b) spent on the National School Nutritional Programme in each province in the 2013-14 financial year;
- (2) how many learners, expressed as a (a) number and (b) percentage, benefited from the specified programme;
- (3) how many high schools benefit from the specified programme since the restructuring took place to include high schools;
- (4) what is the process in each province (a) to guide schools in relation to the specified programme and (b) if an allocation does not cover the entire school?

NW727E

RESPONSE:

- (1) What amount was (a) budgeted for and (b) spent on the National School Nutritional Programme in each province in the 2013-14 financial year;

Province	Budget	Expenditure
	R'000	R'000
EASTERN CAPE	949 162	943 456
FREE STATE	274 552	273 717
GAUTENG	585 157	616 164
KWAZULU-NATAL	1 206 190	1 283 933
LIMPOPO	932 050	872 786

MPUMALANGA	496 661	484 947
NORTHERN CAPE	119 859	119 859
NORTH-WEST	348 912	354 160
WESTERN CAPE	260 538	258 328
TOTAL	5 173 081	5 207 350

- (2) how many learners, expressed as a (a) number and (b) percentage, benefited from the specified programme;

Answer:

(a) 9 131 836 learners

(b) 76.3% of learners in public schools (11 975 844)

- (3) how many high schools benefit from the specified programme since the restructuring took place to include high schools;

Answer:

4 812 secondary schools as at 31 March 2014

- (4) what is the process in each province (a) to guide schools in relation to the specified programme and (b) if an allocation does not cover the entire school?

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Response:

- a) The following measures are in place to guide schools on programme implementation:
- (i) in provinces that are transferring funds directly to schools, provinces send allocation letters to schools, informing them of the allocated budget as well as how it should be used.
 - (ii) provinces provide schools with menus to ensure that learners are fed balanced meals.

(iii) training is provided on meal planning, food safety and hygiene, financial management as well as horticulture for schools in line with specific provincial needs for the specific financial year.

(iv) the national Department and provinces regularly provide guidelines to schools in the form of posters, booklets, files, etc. on identified key topics such as gas safety.

b) The budget is allocated according to the official number of learners per school as contained in the Education Management and Information Systems (EMIS). Funds should therefore be enough to cater for all learners. In the exceptional circumstance where the allocated budget is inadequate, schools are encouraged to report through the relevant departmental management structures (circuit, district, province, national). In considering such a case, the allocated school budget will be reviewed against official numbers as contained in EMIS. Where it is discovered that the EMIS numbers are higher than the allocated programme number of learners for the particular school, the budget of the affected school can only be increased in the subsequent financial year. This is because business plans and databases indicating number of learners to be fed, are approved during the planning phase prior to the commencement of each financial year. To manage extreme cases of budget inadequacy for schools, provinces can apply to the Accounting Officer for deviation from the approved business plan.