

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION 943

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Mr Mr G G Bionamo to ask the Minister of Education:

Whether she has put any mechanisms in place to ensure that (a) scholar transport is properly co-ordinated in all provinces and (b) bus owners are paid on time in order to avoid irregular service delivery; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N1217E

REPLY:

(a) Transport, together with appropriate planning of school location, is a key factor in providing universal access to basic schooling. The position of my Ministry is that no child should be denied this right because of transport constraints. All provinces have therefore developed approaches, and within affordable limits, provide various levels of assistance to learners.

My Department is currently undertaking a review of scholar transport arrangements and policies in provinces. This may result, after consultation with stakeholders and provinces, in a national policy framework for learner transport, bearing in mind part (b) of this reply.

(b) Monitoring of provincial financial management, including the payment of invoices within 30 days, is a responsibility of the relevant Head of Department. My Department has been assured that the provincial departments of education are resolving the problems related to the delivery of transport services and the firm action taken by the Gauteng department is evidence of this.