

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 539

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 05/2014)

Ms D Carter (Cope) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

- (1) Whether her department had requested a report on the condition, cleanliness, adequacy, safety and suitability of school toilets for every school in the country; if not, why not; if so,
- (2) whether her department studied the findings and recommendations of the reports on every school in the country; if not, why not; if so, what decisive steps with the necessary follow-up action has her department taken to ensure that everything was in order in every school to prevent any avoidable accident or mishap?

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REPLY:

1. The DBE has access to the information referred to above in the National Education Infrastructure Management System (NEIMS). NEIMS is an audit of the physical infrastructure and facilities in all public schools. This database provides baseline data on the condition of schools, their location, the physical conditions of buildings and basic services such as water, sanitation and electricity, including utilisation and size of classrooms, laboratories, libraries, administration blocks, other teaching and learning areas, hostels, halls etc. It also includes the availability of telecoms, access roads, location of education institutions and distance to other education institutions and catchments areas, including GPS positions. In 2013, the DBE went on an extensive update of the database. A service provider was appointed and the assessments were completed in May 2014 and the upload that will give the latest status of all buildings is underway.

2. As indicated above, the DBE and provincial departments have access to the NEIMS database and other provincially based data sets that provide information on the condition of buildings. These are used to inform the infrastructure programmes implemented by provinces and the DBE. The varied programmes include the eradication of inappropriate structures, basic services that include water, sanitation and electricity, fencing, provision of Grade R classrooms, maintenance, upgrading and rehabilitation, which include the construction of new schools, construction of additional spaces like libraries and laboratories , etc, upgrading and rehabilitation of existing schools, as well as maintenance of new and existing schools.