

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 43

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 1/2013)

43.

~~43.~~ Mrs A T Lovemore (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

- (1) With reference to the requirement set out in section 3(3) of South African Schools Act, ACT 84 of 1996, (the Act) (a) how often are Members of Executive Councils (MECs) required to make this determination and (b) what are the details of the criteria utilised by MECs to make the determination required;
- (2) whether the determination made by the MECs takes into account the number of independent schools in the relevant provinces; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether all MECs for Education have complied with the requirements of section 3(3) of the Act (a) in the 2011 – 2012 financial year and (b) during the period 01 April 2012 up to the latest specified date for which information is available; if not, which MECs did not comply with the requirement;
- (4) whether any MECs have reported any shortage of schools (a) in the 2011 – 2012 financial year and (b) during the period 01 April 2012 up to the latest specified date for which information is available; if so, what are the relevant details of such reports;
- (5) whether annual reports on progress have been supplied by each affected MEC, as required by section 3(4) of the Act; if not, why so, what are the relevant details ?
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RESPONSES:

(1) With reference to the requirement set out in section 3(3) of South African Schools Act, ACT 84 of 1996, (the Act) (a) how often are Members of Executive Councils (MECs) required to make this determination and (b) what are the details of the criteria utilised by MECs to make the determination required?

(a) The MEC makes a determination every year to ensure that all children of school-going age are admitted.

(b) The MEC will establish systems to determine number of schools required. These include:

- i. Enrolment figures submitted by schools every year;
- ii. Annual Reports;
- iii. School Readiness Verification reports;
- iv. The number of schools in relation to the population around those schools; Establishment of informal settlements;
- v. Drastic increase in learner numbers; and
- vi. Overcrowding that exist at the nearest schools.

(2) Whether the determination made by the MECs takes into account the number of independent schools in the relevant provinces; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

The determination made by the MECs does not take into account the number of independent schools because the department does not depend on such schools for the placement of learners. Provision of schools and the placement of learners is a government function in schools under government control.

(3) Whether all MECs for Education have complied with the requirements of section 3(3) of the Act (a) in the 2011 – 2012 financial year and (b) during the period 01 April 2012 up to the latest specified date for which information is available; if not, which MECs did not comply with the requirement?

Yes, all MECs have complied with the requirement of the Act in the 2011/2012 financial year, hence all learners seeking accommodation have been placed in schools.

(4) Whether any MECs have reported any shortage of schools (a) in the 2011 – 2012 financial year and (b) during the period 01 April 2012 up to the latest specified date for which information is available; if so, what are the relevant details of such reports?

(a) & (b) Shortages are reported regularly as they form the basis for requests for additional funding by provinces.

(5) Whether annual reports on progress have been supplied by each affected MEC, as required by section 3(4) of the Act; if not, why so, what are the relevant details?

The Minister and the Council of Education Ministers receive annual reports and progress reports on infrastructure development per province.