

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY QUESTION 941

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 18-08-2006 (INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 24-2006)

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

Whether she has a system in place to determine how many learners (a) qualify for the nutrition scheme and (b) are actually benefiting from the scheme; if not, why not; if so, how many in each case?

N1215E

REPLY:

- (a) The selection of pupils to receive school meals is guided in principle by a 2001 Cabinet decision that required beneficiaries to be in those areas “where poverty levels are highest ... specifically, those situated in rural, farm schools and schools serving informal settlements.”

In practice, pupils are selected in terms of the Norms and Standards for the Funding of Public Schools. This means that the provision of school meals is aligned to the broader strategy of school funding and school-fee exemptions. Consequently, schools in the lower quintiles (1, 2, 3) and primary schools are given priority.

- (b) However, in practice beneficiaries of school meals can be in quintiles 4 and 5, as a recent DoE study has revealed.

Although the DoE guideline is that provinces should provide meals to schools as a whole, the study indicates that in some provinces, namely Gauteng, Northern Cape, Western Cape and the North West, hungry children in quintile 4 and 5 schools are also provided with meals.

Moreover, provinces do not provide food to all primary schools. The number of primary schools per province that should have been included in the programme are:

Province	Schools		
	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7
1. Eastern Cape	75	65	65
2. Free State	562	190	133
3. Gauteng	224	26	27
4. KwaZulu Natal	1131	426	44
5. Limpopo	943	35	19

6. Mpumalanga	309	78	52
7. Northern Cape	20	274	187
8. North West	20	10	0
9. Western Cape	192	0	13
TOTAL	3476	1104	540

The outstanding 180 000 (or so) learners from the 540 schools will be included in the 2007/8 financial year.

Even though these anomalies exist, the nutrition programme has over the years been able to reach an increasing number of intended beneficiaries.

Currently 5 996 050 learners at 18 039 schools receive school meals each day.