

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY QUESTION 704

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Mr C M Lowe to ask the Minister of Education:

(a) How many schools had been declared no-fee schools, (b) how many pupils attended these schools, and (c) what was the total budget allocation for these schools, in each province as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

N875E

REPLY:

The Amended National Norms and Standards for School Funding regulations of the South African Schools Act (84 of 1996) will be implemented from 2007. In terms of these regulations, the Minister of Education will gazette the names of no-fee schools in each province after a process of consultation with provincial MECs, a process that will *inter alia* take into account the amount available for allocation to non-personnel non-capital expenditure in schools.

As the amendment was not in force for the 2006 school year, a voluntary approach was followed: schools were requested by the provincial education departments to indicate if they wanted to be declared no-fee schools. From the preliminary data that the Department received from the provincial education departments during March and April 2006, it appeared that about 9,000 schools would be no-fee schools and 3,000,000 learners would be in these schools. These figures were reported in my budget speech in May 2006.

The latest data returns by provinces indicate that a total number of 7,687 schools with 2,556,550 learners chose to be no-fee schools in 2006. The details per province (including the budget allocation for non-personnel non-capital items for these schools) are provided in the attached table.

PED	NO-FEE SCHOOLS IN 2006		
	Number of no fee schools	Number of learners in no-fee schools	NPNC budget for these schools (in Rand)
EC	2 073	730 553	395 959 726
FS	1 245	229 769	161 527 606
GAU	No schools declared no-fee schools		
KZN	810	281 677	162 809 307
LIM	2 750	1 027 817	541 659 559
MPU	239	91 228	83 348 638
NC	152	52 147	27 481 469
NW	No schools declared no-fee schools		
WC	418	143 359	75 550 193
Total	7 687	2 556 550	1 448 336 498