

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 2372

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 31/2013)

**Mr A M Mponshane (IFP) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

What steps are being taken by her department with regard to (a) municipalities that are overcharging independent schools, (b) perceived prejudice against independent schools and (c) ensuring that independent schools receive the same level of support as any other efficient government school?      NW2786E

**REPLY**

- (a) The Department of Basic Education has not received any reports or complaints of independent schools being overcharged by municipalities.
- (b) Independent schools are the Department's partner in the provision of basic education in South Africa. Independent schools provide a necessary and vital element of diversity within the schooling system which, inter alia, assists with benchmarking of schools. Departmental legislation and policies consequently do provide adequate space and support for individuals to exercise their constitutional right to establish and operate an independent school.
- (c) Independent schools perform a service to their learners that, in its absence, would otherwise have had to be performed by the Provincial Education Departments. The departmental policy dealing with funding of independent schools is structured so as to give preference to independent schools that serve poor communities and individuals.