

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY QUESTION 1777

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Mr AM Mponshane to ask the Minister of Education:

What steps will she take to ensure that, as pronounced by her Deputy Minister in his speech during his tour of the Eastern Cape, by April 2006 there will be no learners learning under trees?

N2437E

REPLY:

The provinces concerned are KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and Mpumalanga. They have audited their schools and identified those with "learners under trees" as at September 2004. The verification audit indicated that KwaZulu Natal had 101 schools; Limpopo had 74 and Mpumalanga 3 schools. It should be noted that the entire school was **NOT** under trees but that various grades were taught under trees.

Having identified these schools and the needs required to address them, these provincial departments developed a classroom-building programme. Building programmes were prioritised for these schools and fast tracking systems have been put in place to provide permanent buildings as quickly as possible.

In the interim alternative accommodation at the existing schools has been made available through the provision of mobile classroom, the use of alternative structures or transporting learners to alternative schools in the immediate area.

The Department of Education monitors building progress on a monthly basis and reports to the bi-monthly meetings of the Council of Education Ministers so that they are able to track progress.