

NATIONAL NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 422.

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**422. Ms H S Boshoff (Mpumalanga: DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:
to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

National school feeding programme

(1) (a) How many quintile 1, 2 and 3 schools, including special schools in Mpumalanga are not participating in the national school feeding programme, (b) what are the reasons for not participating, (c) what are the names of such schools and (d) what engagement will she undertake with the MEC in the province to ensure that such schools initiate the programme;

(2) (a) how many schools, including special schools in Mpumalanga have the services of a social worker and (b) what are the names of such schools;

(3) whether she will engage the MEC to ensure that schools which do not have the services of a social worker will be provided with such a service; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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Response

(1) (a) The Mpumalanga Education Department has confirmed that all schools in quintile 1, 2 and 3 including special schools, participate in the National School Nutrition Programme

(b) (c) and (d) Not applicable.

(2) (a) Schools in Mpumalanga province, including special schools, have access to services of a social worker through the following means:

- 4x Social Worker permanent appointments (one per district for all four districts) for Psychosocial Support programmes. In addition, 1x Social Worker is appointed at Child and Youth Care Centre (Special School) -Ethokomala
- 12x Social Workers for Adolescent Girls and Young Women Programme are deployed in Ehlanzeni and Gert Sibande Districts
- the Department of Social Development at district level (social workers at DSD District Offices) for the coordination of support to schools, cases referred by School Based Support Teams to Districts, and through the Integrated School Health Programme. .

(b) Schools are supported as per district operational plans and interventions based on capacity and referrals.

(3) There is a very good working relationship between the Mpumalanga Provincial Education and Provincial Social Development Departments and the collaboration is managed at district level. The psychosocial support programmes are implemented at different levels: social workers are responsible for all related professional therapeutic interventions while lay-counsellors that have been trained over the years under Life Skills HIV and AIDS Education Programme, are responsible for advocacy and lay-counselling services. About 70% of schools have at least one teacher trained in Lay-Counselling.