

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 2641.

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2641. Mrs L F Tito (EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

(1) Whether she has been informed of the teacher shortages, particularly for key subjects essential for the mid-year examination, at the Ngodini High School which has led to a protest by Grade 12 learners; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) (a) what (i) steps has her department taken to urgently address the specified matter and (ii) contingency plans are in place to ensure that learners, especially matriculants, are not academically disadvantaged by the lack of subject-specific educators and (b) how will her department ensure that rural and under-resourced schools in provinces like Mpumalanga receive adequate staffing ahead of the critical exam periods?

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Response

(1) Yes, the Minister of Basic Education was informed of the reported protest action by Grade 12 learners at Ngodini Secondary School in Mpumalanga during a meeting of the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education held on 13 May 2025. The protest reportedly arose due to teacher shortages and broader concerns regarding school management and resource constraints.

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) has advised that the Mpumalanga Provincial Education Department has taken active steps to investigate and address the situation. A team of investigators has been appointed from districts outside Ehlanzeni to independently probe allegations at the school, including allegations relating to the following:

- The charging of learners for extra classes;
- Theft of food from the school storeroom, reportedly accessed only by the principal;
- The appointment of an unauthorised assistant;
- Sexual harassment; and
- All contracts currently held by the school.

To ensure the integrity of the investigation, the principal of Ngodini Secondary School has been suspended.

(2)(a)(i) The employment and placement of teachers is the responsibility of Provincial Education Departments (PEDs). The Department of Basic Education (DBE) has therefore requested an update from the Mpumalanga Department of Education on the measures being taken to address the reported educator shortages, particularly in key subjects required for the mid-year examination.

(ii) The DBE has also emphasised with the Mpumalanga Department of Education the importance of contingency planning, including the deployment of substitute and temporary educators, to prevent further disruption to the academic programme for Grade 12 learners.

(b) To address ongoing staffing challenges in rural and under-resourced schools, the DBE continues to support PEDs through the implementation of the **Post Provisioning Norms**, targeted recruitment through the **Funza Lushaka Bursary Scheme**, and strengthened oversight of educator placement processes. The DBE has prioritised the

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allocation of teachers in Mathematics, Science and Technology subjects, and works closely with provinces to track vacancies and ensure prompt intervention.

The Minister of Basic Education remains committed to working with all provincial authorities to ensure that no Grade 12 learner is disadvantaged due to resource constraints or management failings. In the case of Ngodini Secondary School, the DBE, under the leadership of the Minister of Basic Education, has requested the Mpumalanga Department of Education to provide a detailed update on staffing and learner support measures underway at the school and to report back following the conclusion of the investigation.