

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 2935.**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 24/05/2025**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 22/2025**

**2935. Dr W J Boshoff (FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

(1) Regarding recent media reports on disciplinary actions against staff members at the Dr Böhmer School for Learners with Special Education Needs in Bloemfontein for alleged racism and sexual harassment, where the implicated staff claim they were whistleblowers exposing maladministration by the school governing body (SGB), what are the reasons that (a) the Free State Department of Education failed to investigate the matter as requested, (b) her office did not respond to the requests for a thorough investigation and (c) the requests by Dr W J Boshoff, through her personal assistant, for a meeting to discuss the matter remained unanswered;

(2) whether the specified matter has been brought to her attention; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what steps will she take to ensure a comprehensive investigation into the (a) allegations and (b) counterallegations?

## **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **WRITTEN REPLY**

#### **QUESTION 2935.**

#### **Response**

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) was not formally informed of:

- the disciplinary actions taken against staff at Dr Böhmer School for Learners with Special Education Needs in Bloemfontein;
- the alleged whistleblowing regarding maladministration by the School Governing Body (SGB); or
- the associated allegations of racism and sexual harassment.

It is important to clarify that, in terms of the legislative framework governing basic education, the authority and responsibility to investigate such matters rests with the Provincial Education Departments (PEDs).

The DBE strongly condemns any incidents of racism, sexual abuse, harassment or maladministration in schools. Such behaviours are not only contrary to the constitutional values underpinning our education system, but also undermine efforts to ensure safe, inclusive and well-governed learning environments for learners.

In light of this matter now being formally brought to our attention, the DBE has initiated correspondence with the Free State Department of Education to obtain a full account of the allegations and counter-allegations, and to determine what investigative steps have been taken to date. Once a detailed response has been received from the Provincial Department, a comprehensive update will be provided to the Honourable Member.

With regard to the Honourable Member's request for a meeting, the Ministry is currently engaging with the Honourable Member on the issue raised and is in the process of further engaging to schedule a meeting. The Minister values constructive dialogue with Members of Parliament and remains committed to addressing the concerns raised through appropriate and timely channels.

The DBE remains committed to ensuring that all matters involving potential misconduct, whether by educators, staff, or school governance structures, are dealt with through due process, and that the rights and well-being of all learners and staff members are protected in accordance with the law.