

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 1152.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 12/09/2025

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: NO 40—2025

1152. Ms A Matshobeni (Eastern Cape: EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

(1) (a) What is the status of Sinovuyo Secondary School which is currently in the intended temporary location in Gompo, East London after the school was vandalised and burnt down in its previous location in Braelyn in 2021, (b) what are the details of its relocation and (c) which time frames are in place in this regard;

(2) whether she has been informed that the majority of learners of the said school roam around the streets during school hours without supervision with no sign of teaching and learning being conducted at the said premises; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

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Response

The Minister of Basic Education has not been formally informed of the situation at Sinovuyo Secondary School in East London, Eastern Cape. In line with the South African Schools Act (Act No. 84 of 1996) and the Government Immovable Asset Management Act (Act No. 19 of 2007), the provisioning and maintenance of public school infrastructure remains the responsibility of provincial governments. The DBE's role is to provide national coordination, policy development, technical support and oversight.

Accordingly, the matter falls under the Executive Authority of the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Education in the Eastern Cape, who is responsible for school infrastructure provisioning in the province. In terms of section 92(3)(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, and Rule 134(5)(b) of the National Assembly Rules, the Honourable Member is therefore respectfully requested to refer this question to the MEC for Education in the Eastern Cape.

That said, the DBE continues to provide oversight and support to provinces in addressing infrastructure backlogs through conditional grants, such as the Education Infrastructure Grant (EIG) and the School Infrastructure Backlogs Grant (SIBG), as well as through targeted programmes like the Sanitation Appropriate for Education (SAFE) initiative. The DBE is also developing Guidelines for School Disaster Risk Management to ensure stronger monitoring and coordinated interventions where schools are affected by vandalism, fire, storm damage or other disasters. These efforts are aimed at ensuring that all learners, including those in rural areas, are taught in safe, appropriate and dignified learning environments.