

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 2082.

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2082. Mr L M Komane (EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

Whether she has been informed about the learners from Metzelfontein Secondary, Sakhesethu Primary, Ingwenyama Primary and Langgewacht Combined schools who drop out and/or miss school due to the failure of relevant authorities to provide scholar transport; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what immediate and emergency funding interventions will her department implement to ensure that, as of 01 May 2025, not a single learner will be left stranded and/or will be forced to walk dangerous long distances to school?

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Response

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) acknowledges that the provision of learner transport is a shared responsibility between Provincial Education Departments and Provincial Departments of Transport and is funded through the provincial equitable share.

The DBE continues to monitor the implementation of learner transport across all provinces through established intergovernmental forums. The DBE supports provinces in aligning their operational plans with the National Learner Transport Policy, which includes addressing issues related to budgeting, learner identification and route planning to ensure timely and equitable access to education.

The Minister and the DBE remain committed to working with all provincial counterparts to ensure that no learner is denied access to quality education due to logistical or safety-related challenges. Learner transport plays a critical role in learner retention, attendance and performance, particularly in rural and remote areas. The DBE will continue to advocate for strengthened coordination, planning and resourcing at provincial level to ensure that every child has a safe and reliable means of reaching school, enabling them to thrive academically and contribute to the future economic success of South Africa.

To this end, the Minister and the DBE are currently arranging engagements with the MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) and the KZN Department of Education to determine what steps are available to improve the province's provisioning of, amongst other deliverables, learner transport.

The matter raised in respect of the specified schools falls under the executive authority of the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Education in KwaZulu-Natal. 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 kindly requested to refer the question to the MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal.