

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 5271

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

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: NO 38 – 2025

5271. Mr V Pambo (EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

What level of support will her department provide to high student enrolment provinces like the (a) Eastern Cape and (b) KwaZulu-Natal?

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Response

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) is acutely aware of the challenges faced by high learner-enrolment provinces such as the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, which together serve some of the largest proportions of South Africa's school-going population.

To support these provinces, as well as others facing similar pressures such as Limpopo, the DBE provides targeted resources and oversight, including:

- **Provision of curriculum support resources:** These include study guides for key subjects, recorded lessons, previous question papers and marking guidelines, as well as exemplar materials and support packages developed in collaboration with provinces.
- **Cross-provincial sharing of best practice:** The DBE facilitates the exchange of question papers, classroom strategies and intervention models from provinces that have achieved success in addressing learner backlogs and supporting large cohorts.
- **Curriculum coverage monitoring:** The DBE closely monitors progress against curriculum requirements, ensuring that provinces with high enrolments meet national expectations for coverage and pacing.
- **Subject specialist networks:** Provincial and district subject specialists provide regular reports on learner performance through Subject Committee Meetings. These forums allow the DBE to identify problem areas and to plan targeted interventions.
- **Focused support programmes:** The DBE works with Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) to implement additional learner support initiatives, such as Saturday classes, catch-up programmes and intensive preparatory sessions in high-enrolment subjects like Mathematics, Physical Sciences and languages.

These measures are complemented by the DBE's broader national programmes aimed at strengthening teacher development, improving access to quality learning and teaching support materials (LTSM), and ensuring that infrastructure and human resources are aligned with the demands of high learner enrolments.

The DBE will continue to prioritise collaboration with provinces such as the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal to ensure that the challenges of scale do not undermine learner access to quality education.