

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 5343

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5343. Mr S W Mkhize (MK) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

Whether, considering the constitutional mandate to protect the right to human dignity, the right to education, safety and security and school health under sections 27 and 29 of the Constitution of the Republic, 1996, and in accordance with the National School Safety Framework, she has been informed about the Nomageje and Nhlalwane Primary Schools and Dubandlela Secondary School which were affected by a natural disaster in 2016; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what steps has her department taken to resolve the situation at the specified schools, which are still without roofs, windows, doors, desks and chalkboards to date (details furnished), and thereby ensure that the cited rights do not continue to be infringed upon?

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Response

The Minister of Basic Education has not been formally informed about the situation at Nomageje Primary School, Nhlalwane Primary School, and Dubandlela Secondary School. However, to press for action, the Director-General of the Department of Basic Education (DBE) will bring this matter to the attention of the Head of Department for Education in KwaZulu-Natal for urgent consideration and intervention.

In terms of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, read with the South African Schools Act, 1996 (Act No. 84 of 1996), the provisioning, maintenance and management of public school infrastructure fall under the responsibility of the provinces. Accordingly, this matter falls under the Executive Authority of the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Education in KwaZulu-Natal Province.

In line with section 92(3)(b) of the Constitution and Rule 134(5)(b) of the National Assembly Rules, the Honourable Member is respectfully advised to refer this question to the MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal for a direct and detailed response.

At a national level, the DBE continues to exercise oversight and coordination over provincial infrastructure implementation and engages with provinces on matters of urgent concern, particularly where learners' rights to dignity, safety and education may be compromised.

To strengthen preparedness and responsiveness across the sector, the DBE is currently developing national guidelines for disaster risk management in schools, in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Centre and Provincial Education Departments. These guidelines aim to ensure that schools are better equipped to respond to, mitigate and recover from natural disasters, safeguarding both teaching continuity and learner well-being.