

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 5836. [1037]**

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**5836. [1037]. Ms P P Xaba-Ntshaba (ANC) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

**[Question submitted for oral reply now placed for written reply because it is more than quota (Rule 137(8))]**

What total number of early childhood development (ECD) centres have been registered as part of the Bana Pele ECD Registration Drive and (b) at what level of registration is the majority of the specified centres?

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##### **Response**

(a) As at the latest reporting period, a total of 11 648 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres have been registered through the Bana Pele Mass Registration Drive.

(b) The majority of these ECD centres are currently registered at the Bronze level of compliance. This level signifies that the centres have met the minimum registration requirements in accordance with the Children's Act, 2005 (Act No. 38 of 2005), and are now in the process of progressing towards higher compliance levels (Silver and Gold), as part of the phased registration and compliance support plan under the Bana Pele initiative.

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) continues to work closely with Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) and the Department of Social Development (DSD) to support centres in meeting higher levels of registration compliance and ensuring that all ECD programmes operate within safe, nurturing and developmentally appropriate environments for young children.

This initiative forms part of the Minister's key priority to improve access to and quality of early childhood development, ensuring that every child in South Africa has a strong foundation for lifelong learning and development.