

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 491.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 24/02/2023

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 04/2023

491.. Mr S L Ngcobo (IFP) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

Whether her department has any upgraded school management level initiatives on (a) governance, (b) infrastructure and (c) security, considering the amount of crime and violence that takes place in and around the school environment; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 491.

Response

a) In response to the escalating crime and violence in schools, in addition to strengthening the codes of conduct of schools, the Department has signed a protocol with the South African Police Services to support all schools in dealing with the challenges faced by schools. The initiative is informed by the fact that crime and violence are beyond the scope of school principals and School Governing Bodies. Such an intervention is the competency of the law enforcement agencies. The Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign (QLTC) is focussing on the mobilisation of communities for a joint effort to tackle the challenge.

b) The funding allocated to infrastructure also covers fencing and gates. Guidelines and specifications for such fencing and gates are available. The prioritisation of infrastructure projects (including fencing projects) is the prerogative of the Province

c) The Department of Basic Education (DBE) uses the the National School Safety Framework (NSSF) as a guiding framework to address crime and violence in schools; including access control challenges in schools. The NSSF has led to the establishment of school safety committees, to address safety challenges in schools. As a new initiative, the DBE in partnership with the Wits RHI has developed a digital training on the NSSF for the broader school communities to strengthen the capacity of school based personnel in dealing with incidents of violence in schools. The DBE has also released circular, requesting all school safety committees to conclude the digital training by March 2023.

The DBE and its partners, the South African Police Service and the following Departments: Social Development, Health, Home Affairs, Correctional Services, Justice and Constitutional Development, as a Communications and Constitutional Development are rolling out Inter-Departmental Campaigns on the Prevention of Violence, Bullying, Corporal Punishment, Learner Pregnancy, Drugs and Substance Abuse in schools. The Campaigns are led by the Deputy Minister of Basic Education and supported by Deputy Ministers of partner departments. To date, the Campaigns have been held in four provinces: Gauteng, Limpopo , Mpumalanga and the North West Province. The Campaign raises awareness on the social ills impacting negatively on teaching and learning in schools, and mobilises school communities to respond effectively to these social ills. The Campaign will take place in the Eastern Cape, Nelson Mandela District on the 10th of March 2023.