

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 549. [Ê101]

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**549. [Ê101]. Ms A M van Zyl (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:
to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

**[Question submitted for oral reply now placed for written reply because it
is in excess of quota (Rule 137(8))]:**

How does her department intend to deal with overcrowding in schools
(details furnished) to maintain the focus on quality education and
learning?

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Response

The Department intends to deal with overcrowding in schools through a programme called Special Intervention Programme on Overcrowding in Schools (SIPOS). The proposal involves the supply of additional classrooms to affected schools at a reduced cost and time, than it would normally cost; and take when following conversional methods of procurement and appointing service providers to reduce overcrowding in schools. This will be done through a strict direct transfer of funds by the Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) to schools, and self-built classrooms. Discussions are at an advanced stage with National Treasury for funding.

In the short term, in collaboration with the PEDs, we are continuing with the supply of mobile classrooms in affected schools; and we are establishing satellite schools to accommodate unplaced learners. Some specialist rooms are temporarily used as classrooms to alleviate overcrowding until the self-built programme commences.