

NATIONAL NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

ORAL REPLY

QUESTION Ê117.

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Ê117..Ms M N Gillion (Western Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

Debts owed to municipalities

(1) In light of the national crisis of high debts that are owed to municipalities by various government departments, (a) how many (i) Provincial Departments of Basic Education and (ii) schools owe the municipalities and (b) what are the total costs;

(2) whether her department has any plans to pay such debts; if not, why not; if so, (a) what plans and (b) what are the further relevant details?

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Response

(DBE)Response:

The information the Hon Member is asking for resides with the 9 Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) not the national Department of Basic Education. The Hon Member is advised to direct the question to the respective province. The DBE has tried to source the information and only three PEDs responded. The Hon Member is therefore advised to direct the question to the respective provinces as the DBE does not monitor provincial accounts to Municipalities.

The table below shows that no province responded on how many of their offices owe municipalities. Eastern Cape responded that 403 schools owe over R29 million to the municipalities. Western Cape responded but did not indicate the number of schools but reported that they owe over R53 million to municipalities.

Province	Number of:		Total costs 1 (b)
	Departmental Office(S) 1 (a) (i)	Schools 1 (a) (ii)	
EC	outstanding	403	29 568 678
GP	outstanding	210	49 056 465
WC	outstanding	outstanding	53 706 488

(2) Whether the Department has any plans to pay such debts, if not, why not, if so, (a) what plans and (b) what are the further relevant details?

Response:

Please note that for part 2 of the question, only Gauteng and Western Cape responded and the other 7 provinces did not respond, The Hon Member can direct the question to the remaining provinces for their response:

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Gauteng says that the Department has paid R20 072 956.00 on behalf of section 21 schools that were unable to meet their debt obligations. Partial section 21 schools are paid for by the Department and the schools' accounts are up to date.

The remainder of the debt will be paid by the schools. The department will be processing the second tranche of Norms and Standards subsidies during this month and November.

The Western Cape says that the debt balance older than 60 days, currently amounting to R16.9 million, is closely monitored and the Western Cape Education Department has sufficient funding available to assist schools to pay any outstanding arrears should it be required.