

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORAL REPLY

QUESTION 421

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421. Mrs N R Mashabela (EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

What (a) number of rural schools have been closed since the start of the 2021 academic year as a result of her department's drive to close uneconomical schools in rural areas initiated in 2019 and (b) support is her department providing to rural schools under threat of closure?

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Response

a) There is a total of 1 503 schools which were closed, since 2021.

b) The Department of Basic Education supports schools under threat by:

1. providing teachers above the required post establishment;
2. preparing teachers to manage multi-grade classes;
3. providing training to School Management Teams (SMTs) to improve management systems, which are sometimes the cause of the drop in learner numbers; and
4. providing ICTs, where feasible.