



# EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Shadow MEC for Education

The Hon. Yusuf Cassim MPL



Provincial Legislature  
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24 March 2020

Hon. MEC Fundile Gade  
Department of Education  
Eastern Cape Provincial Government

Dear Hon. Gade

**RE: EFFECTS OF COVID-19 AND SCHOOL CLOSURE**

At a time of a national disaster, it is important to be informed and prepared for the consequences of necessary steps that are taken.

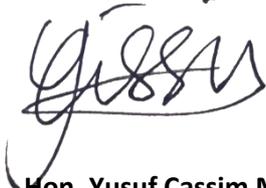
With this in mind, I would like to be informed of the plans of the following concerns:

- With the schools having been closed, the effects on the learners, teachers and parents have been felt by millions in the Eastern Cape. Many of the learners who attend schools in the province often receive their only daily meal from the school nutrition programme (SNP). I am concerned that these learners are now unable to eat on a daily basis. Has the department collaborated with any other departments, for e.g. the department of Social Development, in order to ensure that these children still receive a daily meal? With an existing budget for the SNP, has the department executed, or plan to execute, a programme where meals are still provided to vulnerable learners? Please could you supply me with the details.
- With the unplanned and unexpected closure of the schools, I am concerned that learners and teachers will not have enough teaching time in order for learners to be fully prepared to complete their current academic year. What plans has the department put in place to ensure that the remaining terms allow sufficient time for quality and comprehensive teaching to the learners, and sufficient time for teachers to provide quality education to the learners? Along with this, what is the plan to be actioned for the mid-year examinations and the end of term assessments? As a result of contact time with learners being limited, will the same assessments and midyear examinations still occur in the same manner, or will relevant changes be implemented? If so, what do these changes include?
- Quantile 4 and 5 schools in the province are fully reliant on school fees paid by parents/guardians in order to pay teacher employed by the SGB. A concern is that many parents/guardians may not be able to afford to pay school fees due to the effects of the COVID-19 virus and the national lockdown. Does the department have an emergency fund available to assist these schools in paying salaries of possible affected teachers? Please could you supply me with the details.

I wish you and your department all the best during this unforeseen time. As a member of the portfolio committee on Education, I am fully in support of any measures that need to be taken in order to look after the education of all learners in this province and to support the schools and teachers during this time.

I await your favourable response.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yusuf Cassim', written in a cursive style.

**Hon. Yusuf Cassim MPL**  
**Shadow MEC of Education**

**Cc Mr Themba Kojana**  
**SG**