

**QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**IQP 4**

**Monday, 15 March 2021**

**Mr Y Cassim to ask the MEC responsible for Education:**

- (1) How many schools are deemed to be overcrowded in the province;
- (2) when is a school considered to be overcrowded;
- (3) what plans has his Department implemented in schools which are deemed overcrowded with a view to adhering to COVID-19 regulations, specifically, to social distancing?

1. An average of 29% of schools (i.e.1514 of 5221 schools) are deemed to be overcrowded in the Province.
2. Schools are considered to be overcrowded when they have exceeded the total number of learners as per the prescribed ratio of teacher to learner (i.e., 1:40 for Primary schools and 1:35 for high schools) and also in respect of the number of classrooms in the school. Thus if a Primary school has 5 classrooms it equals to (5 teachers i.e. 1 for every classroom) x 40 learners max per classroom equals 200 learners that the school can accommodate.
3. Where schools are overcrowded the Department ensured that schools follow rotational timetables to accommodate social distancing between learners in schools