

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY

IQP 7

Thursday, 1 April 2021

153. Mr Y Cassim to ask the MEC responsible for Education:

- (1) How many schools in the province, per district, have inappropriate sanitation facilities;
- (2) (a) of the schools in (1) above, how has his Department supported them with temporary solutions to the inappropriate sanitation facilities in the 2020 academic year and (b) what were the reasons for supplying the temporary solutions;
- (3) whether these temporary solutions are still being provided to the schools with inappropriate sanitation facilities; if not, why;
- (4) whether the schools referred to in (1) above are compliant with the COVID-19 regulations; if not, (a) why and (b) what support does his Department offer to these schools with a view to ensuring compliance to the regulations?

(1) 1,598 schools as follows have inappropriate sanitation as follows:

Education District	Total
Alfred Nzo East	116
Alfred Nzo West	212
Amathole East	268
Amathole West	104
Buffalo City	60
Chris Hani East	193
Chris Hani West	89
Joe Gqabi	84
Nelson Mandela	1
O R Tambo Coastal	241
O R Tambo Inland	219
Sarah Baartman	11
Grand Total	1,598

- (2)(a) The Department through DBE provided mobile toilets to 692 schools out of the 1,598 under the SAFE programme from the 1st June 2020 to 15th December 2020.
- (b) DBE provided the toilets as part of the multipronged strategy in seeking to containing covid-19 pandemic.
- (3) DBE terminated the programme in December 2020 as the cost of the programme was not sustainable to support with national treasury also not support the expansion of scope. DBE is currently expediting the implementation of the SAFE programme.
- (4) To date in terms of the sanitation 86 schools have been provided with decent sanitation thus are compliant with covid-19 regulations however, the balance of the schools are not compliant.
 - (a) This is due to the issue of both the issue of funding the SAFE programme which is financed over a multiyear period and the challenges in the implementation of the programme by DBE.
 - (b) The schools have been instructed through the Districts to utilise both the maintenance and municipal services budgets to address both in the interim the issue of toilets (repairs, desludging, etc) together with the provisioning of water (water tanks and water carting).