

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

QUESTION PAPER

NOTE:

1. † Indicates translated version of the question.
2. ★ Indicates a question for oral reply.

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY**TUESDAY, 10 MARCH 2026****BASIC EDUCATION***Scholar transport provision***★7. Mr M Feni (Eastern Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

What steps is her department taking in collaboration with provincial departments and the Department of Transport to (a) address gaps in scholar transport provision and (b) ensure safe and reliable access to schools for learners in remote and high-risk areas? CO103E

*Early grade reading proficiency***★14. Ms J M Adriaanse (North West: DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

Considering the recent findings by the Funda Uphumelele National Survey indicating serious deficits in early grade reading proficiency, what corrective interventions have been implemented by her department to address deficits in early grade reading proficiency, particularly in underperforming provinces? CO110E

*Eradication of unsafe school structures***★8. Mr M F Mokwele (Limpopo: ANC) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

(a) What measures are in place to (i) accelerate eradication of unsafe school structures and (ii) ensure full compliance with minimum norms and standards for school infrastructure, particularly in rural provinces such as Limpopo and (b) what timelines are in place for completion? CO104E

*Evaluating effectiveness of SGBs***★1. Ms M Kennedy (Limpopo: EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

(a) How is she evaluating effectiveness of School Governing Bodies (SGBs) in public schools, particularly regarding (i) governance and (ii) parental involvement and (b) what targeted interventions have been implemented to strengthen (i) SGB's functionality and (ii) parental engagement in underperforming schools such as the Naledi Ya Meso Secondary School that received 0% matric pass rate for 2025 (details furnished)? CO97E

*Learners with special educational needs***★21. Ms L P Mhlongo (KwaZulu-Natal: MKP) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

How many learners with special educational needs who qualify for scholar transport in terms of the National Learner Transport Policy are currently not receiving transport in each province, with particular reference to (a) KwaZulu-Natal where learners travel more than 20

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kilometers to schools such as Open Air School in Pietermaritzburg, (b) the Eastern Cape rural districts where learners reportedly fail to attend school as a result of the lack of adapted vehicles and (c) Limpopo's Vhembe and Sekhukhune districts? CO117E

Improvement of foundational learning

★9. Ms D W Fienies (Northern Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

Considering the persistent challenges in literacy and numeracy outcomes, (a) what targeted interventions have been implemented to improve foundational learning in early grades and (b) how her department is monitoring the impact of such interventions across provinces?

CO105E

HIGHER EDUCATION

Funding of students

★10. Mr M F Mokwele (Limpopo: ANC) to ask the Minister of Higher Education:

Whether any progress has been made to fund students from 'missing middle' household income that exceeds R350 000 and less than R600 000; if not, why not; if so, what progress?

CO106E

Retention of students

★19. Ms N S Du Plessis (Gauteng: DA) to ask the Minister of Higher Education:

With reference to the estimated 50-60% drop-out rate amongst first-year students at universities in South Africa, what measures are currently being implemented to ensure that such students are retained in the Higher Education system?

CO115E

Accountability of college/university councils

★11. Mr M Feni (Eastern Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Higher Education:

(1) Whether his department has any plans to (a) monitor, (b) evaluate and (c) hold members of college and university councils accountable; if not, why not; if so, what plans;

(2) what consequence management measures are in place where Executives and Councils are found to have committed serious failures whether by omissions and/or commission in their duties such as the case at the College of Cape Town?

CO107E

NSFAS student accommodation

★3. Ms M Kennedy (Limpopo: EFF) to ask the Minister of Higher Education:

Whether he has been informed that the management of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme student accommodation continues to deteriorate, particularly regarding the

accreditation of buildings that allegedly fail to comply with the prescribed norms and standards; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what (i) monitoring and (ii) verification processes are currently in place to ensure that only compliant, safe and habitable accommodation is accredited, (b) how many non-compliant buildings have been accredited since 2023 and (c) what consequence management has been instituted against officials who are responsible for approving such buildings? CO99E

TVET/public university programmes

★24. Ms L P Mhlongo (KwaZulu-Natal: MKP) to ask the Minister of Higher Education:

- (1) Whether he has conducted any recent (a) national and (b) provincial audits to determine that programmes which are offered at public universities and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges are aligned with provincial economic development priorities; if not, why not; if so, (i) when were such assessments conducted and (ii) when will their findings be tabled before the National Council of Provinces;
- (2) how many institutions in each province have introduced new programmes in renewable energy, digital economy, artificial intelligence, green hydrogen, maritime economy, agriculture processing and other scarce skills sectors in the past 24 months;
- (3) (a) how many TVET colleges in (i) KwaZulu-Natal and (ii) the Eastern Cape are fully equipped to deliver artisan training that is aligned to infrastructure and energy transition projects and (b) what percentage of graduates secure employment within 12 months as disaggregated in each province? CO120E

Upscaling training in artisanal skills

★12. Ms S Masumpa (Western Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Higher Education:

Considering the country's high unemployment rate, what actions is his department taking to upscale training in hard artisanal skills such as carpentry, painting, plastering, tiling, jeweller, metal and weaving to increase chances of skilled personnel being employed and/or opening their own businesses? CO108E

Questions for oral reply transferred for written reply in terms of Rule 228(5):

- ★2. Ms M Kennedy (Limpopo: EFF)—Basic Education.**
- ★4. Mr M M Mampuru (Gauteng: EFF)—Higher Education.**
- ★5. Mr M M Mampuru (Gauteng: EFF)—Higher Education.**
- ★6. Mr M P Sibande (Mpumalanga: ANC)—Basic Education.**
- ★13. Ms D W Fienies (Northern Cape: ANC)—Higher Education.**
- ★15. Ms J M Adriaanse (North West: DA)—Basic Education.**

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- ★16. Ms J M Adriaanse (North West: DA)—Higher Education.
- ★17. Ms J M Adriaanse (North West: DA)—Higher Education.
- ★18. Ms N S Du Plessis (Gauteng: DA)—Basic Education.
- ★20. Ms H S Boshoff (Mpumalanga: DA)—Basic Education.
- ★22. Ms L P Mhlongo (KwaZulu-Natal: MKP)—Basic Education
- ★23. Ms L P Mhlongo (KwaZulu-Natal: MKP)—Higher Education.