

**Hon. Elma Rabe, MPL - Democratic Alliance
DA Spokesperson: Social Development**

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**Attention:** MEC N. Khoza

 Social Development

 KZN Legislature

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Dear MEC Khoza

**RE: National School Nutrition Programme extension**

The Democratic Alliance believes that we need to find a solution to ensure that KZN learners, who have benefitted from the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) during school term, still receive meals during the Lockdown period and for as long as necessary until schools reopen.

For many learners, the NSNP meal is their only meal. It is for this reason that our provincial government needs to take a more proactive stance. We cannot sit idly by and watch as thousands of children are left hungry.

The Democratic Alliance today appeals to you and your Department, in collaboration with the KZN Department of Education, to seek additional funding to enable the provision of meals to as many NSNP learners as possible.

While we acknowledge that the funding will unfortunately not be available from the NSNP budget - as these funds will be utilised after the Lockdown period when school resumes and lessons will have to be caught up – we appeal to you to look at other innovative ways of finding the money.

We also appeal to you, in conjunction with your Education counterpart, to write to KZN’s principals with the following recommendations;

1. That schools remain closed except during certain times for children to collect their meals.
2. That schools will need to comply and make arrangements for the following:
	1. To provide meals to learners who do not necessarily go to their nearest school – an assessment will need to be made;
	2. To provide meals to rural learners that live far away from their schools;
	3. That all involved – including learners - practice social distancing while collecting meals from the schools;
	4. That food is distributed through takeaway meals or food parcels;
	5. That the safety of learners travelling home with their food parcels or takeaway meals is prioritised;
	6. That the safety of the volunteers is ensured and
	7. That regulated permits are issued for volunteers and/or staff that will be required to manage the process at each of these schools.
3. It would not be an option for the children to sit down and eat their meals at the schools, but rather collect the meal and take it home. It would therefore be best if:
	1. The children were requested to bring their own containers to fetch their meal/s; and
	2. That the communities are notified of the need to implement social distancing throughout the implementation of this plan.
4. Districts will need to communicate with the schools as their plans are being finalised to include:
	1. The days of distribution at the various schools; and
	2. Perhaps schools can be expected to feed on two days a week, and some, where possible, every day of the week.

It goes without saying that there would need to be a level of flexibility for each respective school and/ or community, but it will be essential that these services start as soon as possible, if not this week.

The DA acknowledges that the above programme will be extremely complicated to implement. In this regard we urge you to liaise with the Western Cape Department of Education which is already looking into the logistics around the implementation of such.

The times ahead are difficult to say the least. I call on your urgent attention to this matter. We cannot wait any longer.

I look forward to your positive response.

Kind Regards,



**Hon. Elma Rabe, MPL**

**Spokesperson: Social Development**

**Democratic Alliance**