



**KWAZULU-NATAL
LEGISLATURE**
AN ACTIVIST PEOPLE-CENTRED LEGISLATURE

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The KZN MEC for Education

Hon KI Mshengu, MPL

Per email

NSNP Programme roll out during the Lockdown

Sir,

The Democratic Alliance believes that we need to find a solution to ensure that our learners who have benefitted from the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) during the school term, still receive meals during this Lockdown period.

For most of these learners, this would be their only meal, and our Government in this province cannot sit idly by and watch how thousands of children are left destitute during these uncertain times.

The Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Social Development, should seek additional funding to be able to provide these meals to as many of the NSNP learners as possible. It will unfortunately not be in the NSNP budget as these funds will be utilised after the Lockdown period when school resumes and lessons will have to be caught up. Unless funds not utilised now can be considered, together with ensuring treasury compliance, be re-allocated for this purpose as well as the additional funding.

Perhaps the DoE could write to the respective principals in these affected areas, and the following considerations could be made:

Cont/... 1.



1. That schools remain closed except during certain times for children to collect their meals,
2. Schools will need to comply and make arrangements for the following:
 - a. To provide meals to learners who do not necessarily go to their nearest school – an assessment will need to be made;

 - b. Rural learners that live far from their schools;
 - c. Physical distancing while collecting meals from the schools;
 - d. The distribution of takeaway meals or food parcels;
 - e. The safety of the learners travelling home with their food parcels or takeaway meals;
 - f. The safety of the volunteers; and
 - g. The issuing of regulated permits for these 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, thus it would be best if:
 - a. The children were requested to bring their own containers to fetch their meal/s; and
 - b. That the communities are notified of the need to implement physical distancing throughout the implementation of this plan.
4. Districts will need to communicate with the schools as their plans are being finalised to include:
 - a. The days of distribution at the various schools; and
 - b. 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 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.

Best regards,

Dr Imran Keeka, MPL