

Friday, 14 August 2020]

No 24 - 2020] SECONSD SESSION, SIXTH LEGISLATURE

## LEGISLATURE OF THE PROVINCE OF THE EASTERN CAPE

---

### INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER

Note:

1. Questions for oral reply will be printed in full in the Question Paper for the day for which they have been set down for reply.
2. \*Indicates a question for oral reply.

### QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

FRIDAY, 14 AUGUST 2020

**\*48. Mr M von Buchenroder to ask the MEC responsible for Transport:**

*With reference to schools re-opening:*

- (1) Whether her Department has finalized all contracts for scholar transport operators; if not, can she kindly provide the reasons for the delay; if so, when has her Department completed the contracts;

### RESPONSE

The phasing in approach of learners back to school has caused the delay because the Department of Transport did not know which grades should be contracted for.

The Department is in the process of finalizing the contracts for the readiness of school reopening.

- (2) whether her Department has contracted additional scholar transport operators; if not, why, if so, (a) how many and (b) in which districts;

**RESPONSE**

This information will be made available once the process of contracting has been finalized.

- (3) whether her Department has allocated additional routes; if so, (a) how many and (b) where;

**RESPONSE**

(a) & b) The Department is currently busy with contracting of operators to transport the learners from different routes and schools and the information required will be available when the process has been completed.

- (4) whether additional learners have qualified for scholar transport during the recent school shutdown period to be transported for the remaining school term; if so, how many learners have qualified per district?

**RESPONSE**

All the 87 000 deserving learners will be transported, once the process of contracting has been completed, the Department will be able to determine how many additional learners can be provided with transport.

**\*49. Mr M Sondaba to ask the MEC responsible for Transport:**

As the learners are returning to school in staggered fashion, whether her Department can kindly confirm that all the qualifying learners for scholar transport in this current school going cohort are all ferried; if not, why?

**RESPONSE**

The Department is busy finalizing the process of contracting operators to transport all the approved 87000 learners.

**\*50. Mr M Sondaba to ask the MEC responsible for Transport:**

*Considering that funds on scholar transport programme have reportedly been saved as the learners were not attending school during lockdown levels 4& 5 and only certain grades attend during level 3:*

Whether this means that when all learners return to school, her Department anticipates all deserving learners for scholar transport services will be definitely transported in the current financial year; if not, why?

**RESPONSE**

As per the plans of the Department for 2020/2021, only 87 000 learners will benefit from Scholar Transport with an allocated budget of R627 711m. The Department is finalizing the process of contracting of operators to transport learners with the data recently received from the Department of Education. Once the process has been finalized, the Department will then be able to respond on how many additional learners can be provided with transport during the financial year with the limited resources available.