



**Hon. N.N Boyce**  
Speaker of Parliament  
KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature  
Private Bag X9112  
Pietermaritzburg  
3200

Dear Madam

**SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 230/2021**

This correspondence serves to report to the KZN Provincial Legislature in respect to Parliamentary Question No. 230/2021

**Dr I Keeka (DA) to ask the MEC for Education:**

**Regarding Learner Transport:**

- 1. How many learners are “overloaded” [those referred to as “overloads”] that the Department is aware of as part of the learner transport programme;**

The Department is aware of 9 673 learners who constitute overloads within the learner transport programme.

- 2. Are such overloads lawful both during this state of disaster [covid19] and outside of the current status?**

The overloads are, as in any case within the public transport system, unlawful.

- a) If unlawful, what remedy has the Department considered to rectify the matter?**

In an attempt to address the issue of unavoidable overloads, when the learner transport budget received a slight increase in the 2021/2022 budget, the Department used that situation to reduce the number of learners who constitute overloads.

The matter has further been brought to the attention of the Provincial Treasury, as this has to do with inadequate budget in a programme that has an ever-increasing demand.



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We have also removed learners who attend schools of choice from the programme, and rerouted the vehicles to learners in need of transport attending schools of need.

**3. What are the other and current challenges experienced by your department related to –**

**a. This programme;**

The programme requires more budgets to be able to address the issue of overloads as well as the issue of learners who qualify to benefit but who, because of budgetary constraints, do not currently benefit and are on the waiting list.

**b. Working with the DoT; and**


None.

**c. Treasury.**


Due to the current financial situation facing the whole country, Provincial Treasury has presently not been able to assist the Department with more budgets, which would allow to provide learner transport to all qualifying learners.


**4. With regards to any, if not all, in 3) what attempts have been made to resolve the challenges?**

The issue of the unenviable budgetary situation for learner transport in the province has been presented to both Provincial and National Treasury. It has also been presented to the Education Portfolio Committee in the Provincial Legislature.

  
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**DR MJB MTHEMBU**  
**ACTING HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**  
**KZN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

  
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**DATE:**

  
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**MR KI MSHENGU, MPL**  
**MEC FOR EDUCATION**  
**KWAZULU-NATAL**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE:**