



GAUTENG PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: Bongane Sibisi
Ref: 5. ED138

**TO: MR LINDA MWALE
ACTING SECRETARY TO THE LEGISLATURE**

**FROM: MR. M K CHILOANE
MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
EDUCATION AND SPORTS, ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION**

SUBJECT: QUESTION POSED BY LEGISLATURE QUESTION 5. ED138

PURPOSE:

With regards to fires that have occurred in Gauteng schools, could the MEC please indicate:

QUESTION 1:

How many fire incidents have occurred in Gauteng schools in the past five years, please indicate, the name of the school and areas?

ANSWER:

29 fire incidents have occurred in Gauteng schools in the past five years from 2021/22 to 2025/26 Financial year.

QUESTION 2:

Of these incidents, how many schools have been fixed and how much has been spent?

ANSWER:

Out of the 29 incidents only 6 Schools were fixed by the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) with a total expenditure of R 9 301 040,71. It must be noted that out of the 29 incidents 10 schools were fixed by the school insurances, the School Governing Body (SGB) and through donations received by the schools from sponsors.

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QUESTION 3:

Of these incidents, how many schools have not been fixed and why?

ANSWER:

Out of the 29 fire incidents only 13 Schools have not been fixed to date, it must be noted that damages were of such a nature that it required extensive work to be done in the affected schools. In this regard the work was referred to Gauteng Department of Infrastructure Development (GDID) for implementation.

QUESTION 4:

How much is needed to fix these schools?

ANSWER:

The amount needed to fix the schools will only be determined after the conditions and assessments have been concluded.

QUESTION 5:

Are there fire safety protocols in all Gauteng schools?

ANSWER:

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) inspection record indicate that there are limited fire safety protocols in GDE schools. The following fire safety protocols are in place in Gauteng schools:

- GDE supported the high-risk schools that are on the school nutrition programme with the fire blankets;
- GDE provided Fire Extinguishers to the High-Risk schools;
- High Risk schools were supported with first aid kits, with consumables available for use in case of injuries;
- the emergency signages have been put up in high-risk schools;
- in the last financial year learners and educators were trained on firefighting techniques to respond to fire incidents;
- GDE is planning to roll out the fire fighting training to more schools during the 2025/26 financial year;
- every month and on a quarterly basis, the school Safety Committees are required to monitor the availability of first aid contents to ensure that the schools are adequately equipped to respond to medical emergencies;

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- The assembly point areas are available in most schools; and
- Communique are sent to the schools to promote compliance for the safety equipment such as firefighting, schools are directed to ensure annual maintenance for the equipment to always be functional. This is also followed by the annual inspection that are conducted to check OHS compliance in GDE schools.

QUESTION 6:

What are these protocols – do they deal with learner and teacher safety?

ANSWER:

Yes the safety protocols do deal with learner and teacher safety because GDE over the past years and proceeding to the current financial year provided the training for firefighting, first aid and Safety, Health and Environmental Representatives to equipped learners and educators on the skills and knowledge to respond to fire incidents, medical emergencies which requires first aid while waiting for the assistance from the professional medical person such as provincial EMS or private service providers. The training is continuing to be provided in the current financial year covering the following key safety protocols for the learners and educators:

Basic Firefighting training for learners and educators:

- With the intention of firefighting training for learners and educators is to capacitate them on techniques to identify, contain and extinguish fires in the school using basic available equipment in the school such as horse reel, water hydrant, fire extinguishers and fire blanket.
- To facilitate understanding measures of fire safety and evacuation methods during emergencies.

Basic First Aid training for educators and learners:

- The training is planned to equip educators and learners with fundamental skills to use to address emergency medical care, performing immediate care to medical affected person until professional medical professionals arrived, basic life support method includes Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Airway Management, Wound Care (stopping bleeding, wound cleaning and bandaging), Shock Recognition and Management, Sprains, Strains and Fractures.

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Safety, Health and Environment Representative training for Safety Committee members in the schools:

- This training is planned for the educators to gain knowledge to use to advocate for the health and safe environment in the school.
- To ensure that hazards and risks in the school are identified and managed.
- To promote safety awareness
- To represent employees in OHS discussion with the School Management Team.
- To help to minimize disruption for learning and teaching from accidents and ensure that risks and hazards are managed as reasonably practicable.

QUESTION 7:

Are there sufficient fire alarms and extinguishers available?

ANSWER:

Due to financial constraints the schools have limited fire safety measures, such as fire extinguishers and fire alarms.

Kind Regards



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