

326. Hon. W Pretorius (DA) asks the Hon. MEC responsible for Education: Dr. M Maboya.

In view of the newly built Hostel at Oranjekrag Primary and Intermediate School, Gariepdam, Kopanong Local Municipality (KLM):

1. When will the newly constructed hostel officially open for the intake of learners?
2. Which categories of learners will be eligible to reside in the hostel upon opening?
3. How many beds are available in the hostel, and is this capacity sufficient to meet the demand of learners?
4. What additional facilities and amenities have been included in the hostel to ensure a safe and conducive living environment for learners?
5. Noting the serious water challenges in the Kopanong Local Municipality (KLM), what steps has the Department taken to ensure the hostel has adequate supply of water?
6. How many personnel will be employed to manage and support operations at the hostel? Please provide a breakdown of the roles they will perform.
7. What amounts have been (a) budgeted and (b) spent on this project? Please provide a detailed breakdown of all costs.
8. When did the construction of the hostel begin, and when is it expected to be completed?
9. What plans are in place to transport learners to and from surrounding towns to the hostel, and how will the Department ensure that this transport system is reliable and safe?
10. What steps will the Department take to ensure learner and staff safety at the hostel?

NO RESPONSE

RESPONSE 13/06/2025

1. The newly constructed hostel is scheduled to be officially opened by the Honourable MEC on 3 July 2025. Following the official opening, hostel staff will undergo a comprehensive training programme focused on the use and maintenance of the newly installed equipment. The hostel will begin accommodating learners thereafter, once all operational readiness processes are concluded. While an exact intake date cannot be confirmed at this stage, preparations are well underway to ensure a smooth and timely transition.
2. The learners who will be eligible to reside in the hostel are the 133 learners who are in the current hostel. They will be moved to the new hostel as soon as it is ready for occupation. They are the learners from the farm schools that they have been closed.
3. The current hostel accommodates 169 learners: 92 males and 77 females. To meet the demand, the new hostel will provide space for 200 learners: 100 girls and 100 boys.
4. The new hostel facility includes a fully equipped kitchen, a dining hall, a dedicated laundry facility, and two computer rooms. These amenities have been incorporated to promote a safe, hygienic, and conducive living and learning environment for learners.
5. The school's existing borehole has proven either non-functional or insufficient in yield. In response, the department is in the process of installing a new borehole, along with a 60kl-capacity reservoir, to ensure a reliable water supply for both the school and the hostel.
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Personnel Category	Number of Staff	Roles and Responsibilities
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Senior Housekeeping Supervisor (SHKS)	1	- Create an attractive, orderly, and homely atmosphere - Ensure well-balanced menus for learners and staff - Handle supplies: obtaining, storing, accounting - Assist superintendent with stocktaking - Ensure general tidiness and cleanliness - Handle soiled and laundered linen and clothing as necessary
Housekeeping Supervisors (HKS)	2	<i>Same responsibilities as SHKS</i>
Household Aids (HA)	8	- Prepare perishable foods (e.g., vegetables)

Personnel Category	Number of Staff	Roles and Responsibilities
		- Dish up and serve meals - Clean passages, bathrooms, bedrooms, windows, and floors - Handle laundry (washing and ironing learners' clothing and linen) - Lay tables - Wash cutlery and crockery
Hostel Mother	1	- Maintain discipline among learners - Reside with learners at the hostel - Arrange medical attention for sick learners promptly
Hostel Father	1	<i>Same responsibilities as Hostel Mother</i>
Educator Supervisors	6	- Educate and supervise learners - Maintain discipline - Stay at the hostel during duty periods (unless accompanying learners) - Attend all mealtimes to enforce discipline - Grant leave to learners

6.

(a) The original budgeted amount for the project was R80 018 560.18.

(b) The total amount spent to date is R87 168 881.76, which includes approved Variation Orders (VOs). When including the Contractor's Payment Adjustment Provisions (CPAP), the total expenditure amounts to R89 020 914.74.

7. Construction of the hostel commenced on 3 February 2022. Practical completion was achieved on 12 December 2024, following an approved Extension of Time.

8. The Department is providing funds for the transport of learners from home (farms) to the hostel during out weekends and holidays.

9. The Department is providing the hostel with funds to employ security guards to look after the safety of learners. There are also educator supervisors, the hostel mother and father who responsible for the looking after the children.