

**PARLIAMENT OF THE
PROVINCE OF THE
WESTERN CAPE**

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QUESTION PAPER

WRITTEN REPLY

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Note: * Indicates translated version.

FRIDAY, 26 JULY 2024

1. Mr B N Herron to ask Mr D J Maynier, Minister of Education:

With reference to the removal of the asbestos roof at the Eden Primary School in Vredenburg and the reporting of this event to the District Manager:

- (1) What steps did his Department take to investigate the potential exposure of school children to asbestos fibres;
- (2) whether his Department has conducted an investigation into the conduct of the contractor and the potential exposure of school children to asbestos fibres; if not, why not; if so, (a) what is the outcome of the investigation and (b) can a copy of the investigation report be made available;
- (3) whether the contractor complied with the regulations about asbestos; if not, what are the penalties; if so, (a) how and (b) why did some school children claim that their classrooms were full of dust when they returned to school on Monday 19 February 2024;
- (4) why did the District Manager or School Principal not close the school during the removal of the asbestos roofing;
- (5) whether he or a senior member of his Department consulted or engaged with the parents of the school children; if not, why not; if so, (a) when and (b) what was the outcome;
- (6) what recourse do the parents or the school children have to the Western Cape Government when they develop health problem associated with asbestos fibres later in their lives?

(1)

2. Mr B N Herron to ask Mr T A Simmers, Minister of Infrastructure:

- (1) What was the (a) target for serviced sites in his Department's Business Plan and (b) number of serviced sites delivered in the (i) 2019/20, (ii) 2020/21, (iii) 2021/22, (iv) 2022/23 and (v) 2023/24 financial year;
- (2) what was the (a) target for houses or units in his Department's Business Plan and (b) number of houses or units delivered in the same period as in (1) above;
- (3) what was the (a) Informal Settlements Upgrade Grant (ISUG) voted for in the same period as in (1) above and (b) related expenditure in the same period as in (1) above?

(2)

3. Mr B N Herron to ask Mr T A Simmers, Minister of Infrastructure:

- (1) What amount of unspent funding was (a) rolled over, (b) reallocated to other provinces or (c) forfeited in the (i) 2019/20, (ii) 2020/21, (iii) 2021/22, (iv) 2022/23 and (v) 2023/24 financial year for the (aa) Human Settlements Development Grant (HSDG), (bb) Urban Settlements Development Grant (USDG) and (cc) Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant (ISUPG);
- (2) how many social housing projects were (a) planned and (b) completed in the same period as in (1) above?

(3)

4. Mr N P Masipa to ask Dr I H Meyer, Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism:

- (a) What are the details of the economic impact of the (i) SMME Booster Fund and (ii) Red Tape Reduction Unit in the last parliamentary term, (b) how many (i) SMMEs were supported and (ii) jobs were created because of these initiatives and (c) what are his Department's plans to stimulate economic growth further through these initiatives?

(4)

5. Mr L D van Wyk to ask Mr D J Maynier, Minister of Education:

With regard to the Rapid School Build Project:

- (a) What is the current construction progress with the (i) Lwandle Education Precinct and (ii) Blue Ridge Education Precinct, (b) when are learners projected to begin attending schools at the (i) Lwandle Education Precinct and (ii) Blue Ridge Education Precinct, (c) how many learners will attend the (i) Lwandle Education Precinct and (ii) Blue Ridge Education Precinct upon the completion of these projects, (d) what is the budget for each construction phase at the (i) Lwandle Education Precinct and (ii) Blue Ridge Education Precinct and (e) how many classrooms will be built at the (i) Lwandle Education Precinct and (ii) Blue Ridge Education Precinct?

(6)

6. Mr L D van Wyk to ask Mr D J Maynier, Minister of Education:

With regard to the Western Cape Education Department's #BackOnTrack Programme:

- (1) (a) How many (i) learners, (ii) schools and (iii) educators have been involved in this programme in (i) 2023 and (ii) 2024 to date and (b) how many #BackOnTrack classes have been conducted during the most recent school holiday;

(2) whether there has been any indication of the #BackOnTrack Programme's effect on learning outcomes; if so, what are the relevant details?

(7)

7. Mr T C R Walters to ask Ms A J D Marais, Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety:

With regard to the 14 000 firearms, firearm parts and items of ammunition destroyed by the SAPS in Vanderbijlpark on 11 July 2024:

(a) Over what period of time were these items obtained by the state, (b) how many of these items came into the possession of the SAPS from the Western Cape, (c) how many of these items were (i) confiscated by and (ii) surrendered to the state, (d) how many of these items were obtained from within the Western Cape and (e) how many of these items were confiscated by the City of Cape Town during anti-gang operations?

(8)

8. Mr T C R Walters to ask Ms A J D Marais, Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety:

(1) (a) How many police reservists are currently operational in each of the Western Cape's SAPS precincts and (b) how many police reservists were operational in each of the Western Cape's SAPS precincts in (i) 2020, (ii) 2021, (iii) 2022 and (iv) 2023;

(2) whether the SAPS has recruited any police reservists in the Western Cape in the last 12 months; if so, what are the relevant details; if not, why not?

(9)

9. Mr T C R Walters to ask Ms A J D Marais, Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety:

With regard to the Western Cape's SAPS precincts:

(a) How many SAPS members are operational in each precinct, (b) what is the vacancy rate in each precinct, (c)(i) how many visible policing vehicles are allocated to each site and (ii) how many are currently operational, (d)(i) how many unmarked vehicles are allocated to each site and (ii) how many are currently operational, (e)(i) how many computers are allocated to each site and (ii) how many are currently operational, (f)(i) how many printers are allocated to each site and (ii) how many are currently operational and (g) how many detectives are currently operational at each site?

(10)

10. Ms B M van Minnen to ask Mr A R Winde, Premier:

How many digital skills training opportunities have been made available to citizens in (a) 2020, (b) 2021, (c) 2022, (d) 2023 and (e) 2024 to date?

(11)

11. Ms B M van Minnen to ask Mr A R Winde, Premier:

(a) (i) How many government services are available on the citizen mobile application form and (ii) what are the relevant details of each, (b) what (i) percentage and (ii) number of open tickets were resolved by the Western Cape Government Contact Centre in (aa) 2022, (bb) 2023 and (cc) 2024 to date?

(12)

12. Ms B M van Minnen to ask Mr A R Winde, Premier:

With regard to the global disruption of IT services beginning on 19 July 2024:

- (1) Whether any systems of the Western Cape Government were affected; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether measures were put in place to work around the issue during the outage; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

(13)

13. Mr M Booysen to ask Ms M M Wenger, Minister of Health and Wellness:

With regard to the robotic surgery units at the Groote Schuur and Tygerberg hospitals:

- (a) How many surgeries were completed at these units in (i) 2023 and (ii) 2024 to date,
- (b) what procedures are these units currently capable of performing and (c) what is the impact of these units on patients' well-being?

(14)

14. Mr M Booysen to ask Ms M M Wenger, Minister of Health and Wellness:

- (a) How many EMS search and rescue drones are currently in service in her Department,
- (b) in how many instances were these drones deployed in (i) 2022, (ii) 2023 and (iii) 2024 to date and (c) what effect has the use of drones had generally on patient outcomes in search and rescue operations?

(15)

15. Mr D W Bryant to ask Mr A W Bredell, Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

With regard to the ongoing challenges that the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) continues to face relating to the poaching of succulent plants:

- (1) (a) How many joint meetings have taken place in the past 12 months between CapeNature and the South African National Biodiversity Institute and/or other similar authorities to develop further plans to address succulent poaching and (b) which succulent species are currently the most under threat from poaching;

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- (2) whether any steps have been taken to address the matter with the main destination countries for the illegal export of poached succulents; if so, what are the relevant details?

(16)

16. Mr D W Bryant to ask Mr A W Bredell, Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

In relation to the recent floods caused by heavy winter rains that have led to many serious challenges across the province:

- (1) (a) How much money has been spent so far to address the impact of flooding across the province and (b) what environmental and topographic factors have contributed to the increased flooding and displacement of people living in certain informal settlements;

- (2) whether the current weather monitoring systems that the South African Weather Service (SAWS) has in place has proved to be sufficient; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) what additional steps is the Western Cape Government taking to increase its own monitoring capacity?

(17)

17. Mr D W Bryant to ask Mr A W Bredell, Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

In relation to the endangered African penguin:

- (a) What steps are being taken to prevent the decline in the number of African penguins in the Stony Point colony, which falls under the jurisdiction of CapeNature, (b) how many meetings have taken place in the past 12 months between CapeNature and SANParks to develop joint strategies to conserve the African penguin and (c) what is the estimated total number of African penguins that is currently under the jurisdiction of CapeNature?

(18)

PLEASE NOTE: The replies to the questions in this Question Paper are due on 12 August 2024. Should the replies not be submitted before or on the deadline, the Members have the right to have the questions transferred to the Question Paper for oral reply in accordance with Rule 206.