**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 1612**

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**1612. Adv A de W Alberts (FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:†**

(1) Whether she has found that the number of single-medium Afrikaans schools has displayed an upward trend since 1994; if so, (a) what number of schools in each year since 1994 occurs (i) separately in each province and (ii) in total throughout the country and (b) what are the reasons for this in each case;

(2) whether she has found that the number of schools displayed a downward trend in the specified period; if not, what are the full relevant particulars; if so, what steps she will take to protect the specified schools? NW1817E

**RESPONSE:**

(1)(a)(i)(ii)

Please note that the data for 1994 is not available. However, the earliest date for which the Department of Basic Education (DBE) has reliable information is 2002. Table 1 below shows the number of Afrikaans single medium schools over 10 years using 2002 as a baseline. In 2002, there were 1 814 Afrikaans single medium schools in South Africa. The majority of these schools were found in the Western Cape, followed by the Northern Cape with 289 schools.

(1)(b)

1. The demographics in the area of some schools have changed. In response to the growing number of learners wanting English as the Language of Learning and Teaching (LOLT), the schools have introduced English as second language of instruction.
2. Declining number of Afrikaans speaking learners forces the schools to revert to parallel-medium (English/Afrikaans) schools.

(2) The number of Afrikaans single medium schools shows a decrease from 1 814 in 2002 to 1 234 in 2016. The major decrease took place in 2010 where the number of Afrikaans medium schools dropped by 158 schools.

Note that the only increase in the number of Afrikaans medium schools occurred between the years 2005 – 2008. The rest of the years recorded indicate a decrease.

**Table 1: Number of Afrikaans single medium schools, by province, between 2002 and 2016**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Province** | **2002** | **2005** | **2008** | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| **EC** | 221 |  214 | 212 | 202 | 203 | 192 | 173 | 193 | 164 | 173 | 168 |
| **FS** | 113 |  98 | 91 | 70 | 69 | 68 | 76 | 75 | 77 | 79 | 74 |
| **GT** | 266 |  186 | 254 | 252 | 222 | 217 | 188 | 168 | 182 | 183 | 108 |
| **KZ** | 45 |  19 | 31 | 30 | 18 | 15 | 14 | 12 | 12 | 3 | 3 |
| **LP** | 39 |  31 | 45 | 44 | 41 | 26 | 24 | 22 | 24 | 26 | 27 |
| **MP** | 27 |  53 | 95 | 91 | 69 | 61 | 58 | 28 | 25 | 28 | 23 |
| **NC** | 289 |  221 | 248 | 231 | 182 | 247 | 245 | 231 | 237 | 201 | 174 |
| **NW** | 78 |  102 | 95 | 100 | 64 | 58 | 64 | 52 | 55 | 54 | 41 |
| **WC** | 736 |  802 | 687 | 681 | 675 | 666 | 649 | 648 | 635 | 626 | 616 |
| **Total** | **1814** | **1 729** | **1758** | **1701** | **1543** | **1550** | **1491** | **1429** | **1411** | **1373** | **1234** |

***Source: 2002-2015 Annual School Survey and 2016 LURITS***