**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 1614**

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**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 29/2019**

**1614. Mrs D van der Walt (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

(1) With reference to spending cuts announced by the Minister of Finance on 30 October 2019, (a) what is the total cut to the budget for her department and (b) which infrastructure projects are affected;

(2) whether allocations to provinces will be affected; if so, (a) how and (b) what steps will be taken by her department to continue with the projects that are affected? NW2970E

**Response**

**(1) (a) MTEF BASELINE REDUCTIONS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2020/21****R’000** | **2021/22****R’000** | **2022/23****R’000** |
| (659 416) | (856 412) | (1 050 774) |

1. **(b)SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOGS:** Indirect Grant (buildings and other fixed structures)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2020/21****R’000** | **2021/22****R’000** | **2022/23****R’000** |
| (32 623) | (43 836) | (46 345) |

**(1) (b)** With regard to the provincial infrastructure programme funded through the Education Infrastructure Grant, the reduction will have a negative impact in terms of meeting the Minimum Uniform Norms and Standards for Public School Infrastructure. There has always been a deficit in terms of total budget required to eradicate backlogs and the current reduction will exacerbate the challenge. Provinces will also be left with a small window to introduce new projects into the pipeline.

**(2)(a) ADJUSTMENTS TO CONDITIONAL GRANTS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MTEF YEAR** | **2020/21****R’000** | **2021/22****R’000** | **2022/23****R’000** |
| National School Nutrition Programme | (30 014) | (40 010) | (53 055) |
| HIV and AIDS (Life Skills Education) | (23 945) | (26 987) | (33 939) |
| Education Infrastructure Grant | (458 665) | (616 331) | (775 099) |
| Maths, Science and Technology Grant | (12 397) | (13 079) | (13 708) |
| **TOTAL** | **(525 021)** | **(696 407)** | **(875 801)** |

**(2)(b)** The Provincial Departments of Education will have to revise their plans and delay planned projects that cannot be funded as a result of the cut. On the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI) projects, no current projects will be affected as savings derived from the programme will be used to ensure that projects continue as scheduled.