

WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

[No 11 - 2026] Third Session, Seventh Parliament

FRIDAY, 17 JULY 2026

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

1. Ms R Windvogel to ask Mr A W Bredell, Acting Minister of Education:

(a) What interventions has his Department implemented or plan to implement to ensure that learners residing in communities affected by the closure of Provincial Road R328 between Oudtshoorn and the Cango Caves are able to continue accessing education facilities and to recover learning time lost as a result of the road closure and (b) how many learners have been affected by this disruption?

Answer:

1. My department has informed me of the following:

(a) The closure of Provincial Road R328 due to a landslide affected a small number of learners in the Bergoord area. To minimise disruptions, the school, district and community worked together to ensure continued teaching and learning.

Prior to the commencement of the road-clearing operation, a local farmer made a private access route available across his property, enabling community members, including learners and educators, to continue accessing the school. This arrangement remained in place until road rehabilitation work commenced.

On 17 June 2026, contractors began removing debris and unstable rock material resulting from the landslide. Due to the associated safety risks, a full road closure became necessary, and the temporary alternative route could no longer be utilised while heavy machinery was operating in the area. At that stage, eight school days remained in the term, and learners were in the process of writing their June examinations.

The school remained operational during this period. Educators continued to access the school through another, longer, alternative route via Kruisrivier.

To support teaching and learning during the disruption, affected learners were provided with learning materials, handouts and structured learning

activities to complete at home. School management and educators maintained regular communication with parents and caregivers to provide guidance and support regarding learners' learning activities and academic progress.

To mitigate the impact of the temporary disruption and ensure that any missed teaching and assessment opportunities are addressed, the school has developed a catch-up plan, which includes:

- Extending the school day by approximately one hour during the third term;
- Providing affected learners with opportunities to complete outstanding June examination assessments;
- Ensuring full curriculum coverage in accordance with the Annual Teaching Plans (ATPs) and the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS); and
- Ongoing support, monitoring and guidance by District Subject Advisors and the District Assessment Coordinator to track learner progress and provide additional academic support where required.

The Eden and Central Karoo Education District will continue to monitor the situation closely and provide the necessary support to ensure that affected learners are able to recover any learning time lost as a result of the disruption.

The debris and rockfall material have since been removed, and the affected section of road has been cleared. However, the road has not yet been reopened, as the relevant authorities are taking the necessary precautions to ensure that it is safe for public use before access is restored.

- (b) A total of 19 learners attending Grootkraal UCC Primêre Skool were directly affected by the road closure.



ACTING MINISTER OF EDUCATION

DATE: 15 JULY 2026