

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY
QUESTION NUMBER: 290 [CO623E]**

★290. Mr C J de Beer (Northern Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Finance:

What different actions is the National Treasury taking in order to make sure that the budgeted funds from the School Infrastructure Backlogs Grant (details furnished) are spent in their entirety and not only 55% as was the case in the 2016/17 financial year?

CO623E

REPLY

The spending on this grant has improved since 2016/17:

In 2017/18, R1.786 billion (101.6 per cent) of R1.759 billion was spent.

In 2018/19, spending as at end September 2018 (after 6 months) is R855.2 million (58.1 per cent) of the annual allocation.

Various factors have contributed to the improved spending, including closer monitoring and improved oversight of implementing agents and the finalization of the merging and closing of small schools allowing for plans to replace them to be operationalised. The delay in finalizing the merging and closing of small schools was the main reason for the slow spending in 2016/17.