



Dear Parents/Caregivers

## URGENT APPEAL TO BE COUNTED IN THE 2022 CENSUS

This is an urgent appeal to all parents and caregivers of learners in the Western Cape.

The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) has been approached by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) and the Department of the Premier for assistance in communicating the importance of being counted in the 2022 Census.

Currently, only 61% of Western Cape residents have been counted. This has dire consequences for the future of education in this province and the WCED's ability to deliver quality services to our schools.

If, for example, only 70% of the Western Cape's residents are counted in the 2022 Census we stand to lose R9.7 billion or over 16% of our provincial equitable share. This will have huge cost implications for the WCED. As reported by Premier Alan Winde, this will cut R2.6 billion in funding from our health budget and **R4.2 billion from our education budget**, with other smaller departments also suffering losses. This will have huge implications on our ability to deliver quality services to our schools – it will affect the number of educators we can hire, the building and maintenance of schools and resource provisioning. Other services will also be affected in areas such as health. This is a major risk that will impact each and every Western Cape resident.

Please make sure that you are counted in the 2022 Census **before 14 May 2022** and encourage your friends, family and neighbours to do so too. It is easy and can be done by:

- **completing the questionnaire online at: [getcounted.statssa.gov.za](https://getcounted.statssa.gov.za) (link is external);**
- **completing the questionnaire when visited by an official Stats SA Census Counter; or**
- **contacting the Census Call Centre with any enquiries on 0800 110 248.**

If only 70% of the Western Cape's population is counted, then the available spending will be reduced by more than R1 300 per person per annum.

Let's work together to avoid this risk and ensure that you, as a resident of the Western Cape, get your equitable share of the national budget.

Thank you.