

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 2740

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 30-2010)

Mr D C Smiles (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

- (1) Whether her department is considering a new funding model for schools in which to accommodate a voucher system based on a per capita spending on learners; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) when is it anticipated to implement the new system and (b) what are the further relevant details;
- (2) whether her department has conducted research into the voucher system including benchmarks; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

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Reply

- (1) No, the Department is currently not considering a new funding model for schools to accommodate a per capita based voucher system. The department is of the view that the existing system of funding schools is still the most suitable for giving effect to the government's objectives of equity and redress. The Department is examining ways to address certain shortcomings within the current funding regime; such as the problems experienced with ranking of schools as well as compensation to schools for loss of fee income due to school fee exemptions.
- (2) No research has been conducted into a possible voucher system and no benchmarks have been developed. Since it is not currently the intention of the Department to accommodate a voucher system of funding, it has not committed resources towards research into the development of such.