

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION 1176

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 30-2006)

Mr G G Boinamo to ask the Minister of Education:

(a) What was the total number of incidents of school violence reported to her department in each of the three most recent years for which information is available up to 31 August 2006, (b) what are the relevant details of each of these incidents and (c) what steps has her department taken in each case?

N1570E

REPLY:

(a) (b) (c) In answer to a similar question (702 19 June 2006) asking for information about rape and homicide statistics for 2005, I pointed out that criminal cases are handled by the Department of Justice and the statistics of cases involving learners or educators are not readily available to the provincial education departments. Statistics of cases, which are withdrawn or where the accused person is acquitted, are also not available.

Certain disciplinary procedures against learners are dealt with at school level. Many of the provincial reports deal with cases where educators were charged with the disciplinary offence of having sexual relations with a learner at the same school, where the evidence was not sufficient to constitute a charge of rape. In general, information provided by the provincial education departments cannot be verified and it is uncertain whether data is accurate.