

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION 1886**

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 23/10/09
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER 22-2009)

Ms MR Shinn (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

1. How many teachers in each province have applied for the allowance enabling them to buy laptop computers in terms of Teacher Laptop Initiative that was to be phased in from 1 July 2009;
2. whether the arrangement between the SA Democratic Teachers Union (Sadtu) and the computer supplier Rectron is still in place to provide these computers; if not,
3. whether (a) teachers are sourcing their own laptops and (b) a preferred supplier has been appointed; if not, who is the supplier; if so, what are relevant details;
4. whether these laptops are being supplied at a subsidized rate; if not, why not; if so why are the relevant details;
5. (a) what is the total cost to each teacher for buying a laptop and relevant software installation, training and support and network connection, (b) how much of this will be covered by the monthly allowance, (c) who will be responsible for the payment of a shortfall, (d) what educational (i) applications and (ii) administration applications will be installed on the laptops, (e) from where are these being sourced and (f) at what cost to (i) her department and (ii) teachers? NW2448E

REPLY:

1. PEDs are at different stages of preparation for implementation. At this stage there is no indication of the numbers that have applied for the allowance.

2. The Department will not be able to comment as the arrangement in question is between the SA Democratic Teachers Union (Sadtu) and the computer supplier Rectron.
3. (a) The approach in terms of the policy is that individual educators will source their own ICT package, which complies with stipulated minimum requirements, from any reputable supplier and thereafter apply for the allowance; (b) Therefore the Department will not engage in any procurement on behalf of educators.
4. The Department will pay a fixed monthly allowance to eligible and qualifying educators to subsidise the cost of the ICT package over a period of 5 years.
5. (a) The estimated average cost including hardware, software, insurance, network connection, considering the minimum specifications, is R11 750 working out to approximately R195 per month.
(b) the monthly allowance will cover R130 for a period of 5 years
(c) the educator will cover the shortfall. It should be noted that this is only an indicative cost as the actual cost will depend on the deal that individual educators or groups enter into with suppliers,
(d) (i) National curriculum materials that will include the National Curriculum Statements, Learning Programme Guidelines, Subject Assessment Guidelines, Teacher Training Manuals and Teacher

Guidelines; Teacher Development materials developed by Microsoft for the Department the Microsoft Digital Literacy and modules of Microsoft Partners in Learning and

- (ii) the SASAMS administrative package,
- (e) the Department is seeking to engage with Microsoft to extend the existing school level arrangements to make available the resources for educators; and
- (f) at low or no cost to (i) the department; and
- (ii) to teachers