

# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

## FOR WRITTEN REPLY QUESTION 95

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### **Ms D Robinson to ask the Minister of Education:**

(1) In light of her statement that she is committed to seeing the University of Cape Town as a world class institution and the fact that none of South Africa's universities feature in the top 200 positions of the most recent rankings on world universities (details furnished), (a) what categories does her department use to assess the standing of South Africa's universities in the world;

(2) whether her department is happy with the current standing of our universities; if not, what steps is she taking to improve that standing;

(3)(a) when does she expect the University of Cape Town, or any other South African university, to move into the top hundred on the two ranking lists and (b) why does her department not have a ranking list for South African universities?

**C184E**

### **REPLY:**

(1) (a) The National Plan for Higher Education outlines the basis for assessing the performance of the higher education system, and this includes the academic performance and enrolment profile of students, as well as the qualifications and research productivity of academic staff.

(2) Various steps have been taken to improve the performance of the higher education sector, including institutional three-year plans, as well as targeted interventions like the recent extra funding of R48 million for the engineering faculties of four universities.

3 (a) I am not prepared to speculate.

(b) The Department of Education does not rank higher education institutions as ranking in itself does not effect change. Instead we use the complementary instruments of planning and funding to encourage positive change in higher education.