

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR ORAL REPLY
QUESTION 229

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DATE TO REPLY IN PARLIAMENT: 20-09-2006

Mr G G Boinamo to ask the Minister of Education:

(1) Whether, with reference to her reply to Question 693 on 11 August 2006, in which she stated that a substantial number of public school teachers were unqualified, her department has a minimum qualification for teachers to be allowed to teach; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether her department will consider setting a minimum standard for teachers to be allowed to teach should it introduce licences for school teachers; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N1544E

REPLY:

(1) I did not say, in my answer to Question 693, that a “substantial” number of teachers were unqualified. In July 2005 there were 6,040 unqualified teachers (REQV 10). This represents less than 2% of our 360,000 teachers. I should add that in exceptional cases, where a post cannot be filled by a qualified teacher, an unqualified teacher may be appointed on a temporary basis to ensure that no child is without a teacher.

Teachers can only work on a permanent basis in a public school if they are registered with the South African Council for Educators (SACE). A professional qualification of at least the level of M+3 (REQV 13) is a requirement for registration.

In 2000 we recommended (norms and standards for educators published in terms of the National Education Policy Act) that teachers have four years of initial teacher education as the minimum requirement for qualified teacher status. Only half our teachers have four years initial training, although all current teacher graduates do.

(2) The Teacher Education Framework, which will be released this month, will provide for a system of quality-assured, teacher-development programmes.