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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 697

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 06/2014)

Ms D van der Walt (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

- (1) Whether the Statistics SA verification of learner and educator numbers in the Eastern Cape has been completed; if not, (a) what is the envisaged completion date and (b) why has completion been delayed; if so,
- (2) whether a report has been (a) compiled and (b) submitted to her department; if so, what were the (i)(aa) learner and (bb) educator numbers as submitted to the Eastern Cape Education Department via its schools and districts and (ii)(aa) learner and (bb) educator numbers as determined by Statistics SA for every school audited;
- (3) whether (a) principals' salaries, (b) allocations for school nutrition schemes and (c) subsidies for no-fee schools have been adjusted in alignment with the Statistics SA figures; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether disciplinary action has been taken against employees who were found to have reported inflated numbers of learners at schools; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NW781E

RESPONSES:

1. The verification process has not been finalised.
 - (a) Statistics SA has indicated the completion date is the end of August 2014.
 - (b) The delay in the process is due to certain data discrepancies which were picked up during the analysis stage which required additional fieldwork verification. A total of 957 schools had to be revisited during the verification process to ensure correct allocation of learners who were counted but their school and grade details not captured during fieldwork. The 957 schools included schools which had to be verified because of large variations between

the EMIS numbers and the census of schools numbers. Stats SA is currently busy with data processing and analysis of the 957 schools.

- (2) As indicated above, the Department is awaiting the final report from StatsSA.
- (3)
 - a) The norms in terms of adjustment of Principals' posts, and thus salaries, is governed by the Education Labour Relations Council (ELRC) Collective Agreement No. 3 of 2006 entitled "School Grading Norms". A school is graded in terms of the applicable norms in the abovementioned Collective Agreement with the only determinant being the number of educators allocated to the school according to the officially declared post establishment. The Eastern Cape Department of Education has declared the post establishment for 2014 and it will be used to grade and re-grade schools and thus the adjustment posts and salaries of Principals. The EMIS data was used to determine the post establishment.
 - b) Allocations for the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) have not been adjusted in alignment with the 2013 Poverty Distribution Table (PDT). The 2013 MTEF allocations (that is, 2013, 2014, 2015) were already gazetted when the revised table that is aligned to the Census was released. Analysis of the current allocations against the new PDT showed minor changes that will be effected in the 2016 MTEF (2016, 2017, 2018), wherein provincial allocations for 2018/19 will be aligned to the revised PDT. The national Department and provincial education departments work together during the business planning process to ensure that allocations are adequate for the targeted learners in Q1-3 schools as per NSNP Conditional Grant Framework.
 - c) The adjustment was not done as the report was not issued, these matters will be considered once the final report has been received from the Stats SA.
- (4) Although the process has not been finalised it should be noted however that the Statistics Act No.6 of 1999, and in particular the provisions of Section 17 of said Act, dealing with "Confidentiality and Disclosure" protects respondents from disclosure of any information provided by them to Statistics South Africa, for purposes of official or other statistics, to any third party. Such information can only be divulged if it has been anonymised through for example an aggregation process such that no information provided could be traced to any individual, business or institution. Thus no information provided by any person during the census undertaken by Statistics SA on behalf of the Eastern Cape Department of Education, or that may have become available during the process, may (1) be made available to the Department in a way that will allow identification of individuals (2) no information provided to the Department of Education in terms of this study may according to subsection 17(4) be admissible as evidence during legal proceedings except for purposes of criminal proceedings in terms of the Stats Act.