

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 100

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER 02-2009)

Ms JC Kloppe-Lourens (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

- (1) Whether there are any educators registered who are not South African citizens; if so, (a) how many and (b) which countries did they come from;
- (2) Whether her department has any plans to increase the number of foreign teachers in our schools; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

NW106E

REPLY:

(1)

Yes there are educators employed who are not South Africans. According to PERSAL, there are about **2354** foreign educators employed by the Department of Education. The majority of foreign educators are from Zimbabwe, followed by India with a few spread amongst other countries, such as:

Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Zambia, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Malawi, Botswana, Lesotho, Kenya, Uganda, Cameroon and Sudan.

TOTAL NUMBER PER COUNTRY OF FOREIGN EDUCATORS EMPLOYED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	
NAME OF COUNTRY	TOTAL PER COUNTRY
NAMIBIA	40
LESOTHO	62
BOTSWANA	33
SWAZILAND	38

ALGERIA	2
EGYPT	6
GHANA	310
KENYA	21
MADEIRA	2
MALAWI	9
MAURITIUS	3
MOSAMBIQUE	7
UGANDA	83
ZIMBABWE	793
REPUBLIC OF CONGO	4
TANZANIA	3
ZAMBIA	34
ALBANIA	1
BELGIUM	6
BULGARIA	1
DENMARK	1
WEST GERMANY	5
FRANCE	2
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND	3
ITALY	1
NETHERLANDS	12
AUSTRIA	1
PORTUGAL	1
RUMANIA	3
SPAIN	1
SWEDEN	1
UNITED KINGDOM	13
ENGLAND	18
WALES	1
SCOTLAND	10
USSR	1
CYPRUS	1
INDIA	711
INDONESIA	1
PAKISTAN	6
SRI-LANKA	3
CHINA	1
BRAZIL	1
CANADA	1
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	5
AUSTRALIA	3
NEW ZEALAND	1
CUBA	2
CAMEROON	22

ETHIOPIA	4
NIGERIA	43
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	2
RWANDA	3
SENEGAL	1
SIERRA LEONE	1
BANGLADESH	4
IRAN	1
SOMALIA	2
GUIANA	1
PALESTINIAN	2
GRAND TOTAL	2354

(2)

Yes, the Department of Education has plans to increase the number of foreign teachers in our schools where it necessitates filling pots that cannot be filled with suitable qualified South Africans. The main aim of the Department will not be confined to having educators in class for delivery of the subject matter, but it is to ensure that there is a transfer of skills from foreign educators to the local educators and learners and/or vice versa.

As a point of departure, the process of Foreign Educator Recruitment must be seen as an intervention by our Government to address the shortage of skilled Mathematics, Science and Technology educators in the country. The shortage of Mathematics, Science and Technology educators in our country poses a serious challenge given the fact that these subjects are seen as key to driving our economic development as a country.

To justify this, in April 2007 the Minister of Home Affairs announced the specific occupational categories and professional classes as well as applicable quotas within which foreigners may apply for quota work permits in terms of section 21(1) of the Immigration Act, 19 of 2004. A quota of 1000 educators was allocated to the Department of Education for professionals teaching Mathematics, Science and Technology. Currently the Department of Home Affairs allocated a quota of 4000 work permits to our Department.

Interaction was made with about 50 countries requesting them to assist in the recruitment of educators specializing in Mathematics, Science and Technology. Countries like Egypt, India and Kenya showed interest in our request and they are prepared to assist with educators.

The Department also established a data base for unemployed educators and published an advertisement in the local news papers regarding the data base for unemployed educators, both local and foreign, specializing in Mathematics, Science and Technology. This advert did well for the Department in the sense that most of the CVs received were from the foreign educators.

The Department has also appointed a Service Provider to assist with the management of the recruitment and selection process of foreign educators.