

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 1387

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF INTERNAL QUESTION PAPERS: 07/06/2013

(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 20/2013)

Mrs A T Lovemore (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

- (1) What (a) is the time frame and (b) are the full further details of her department's plan to print and deliver textbooks, as reported to the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education on 28 May 2013;
- (2) Whether her department will continue to develop textbooks; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) Whether her department will still offer a choice of textbooks to schools once it has taken over the printing and delivery of these books;
- (4) What are the reasons why her department has decided to develop its capacity to print and deliver textbooks;
- (5) Whether all members of the Council for Education Ministers have (a) been consulted on this matter and (b) agreed to the plan? NW1729E

REPLY:

(1) (a) The department is at present developing Grade 12 Mathematics and Physical Science textbooks, Grade 7-9 Natural Science and Grade 7-9 Technology workbooks /textbooks. These will be made print ready and provided to provinces by end of July, to print and deliver to schools.

(b) The DBE has demonstrated its institutional capacity to publish its own LTSM through the workbooks and Siyavula textbooks which are aimed at bridging the gap in the commercial publishers' large scale publishing and printing, and to advance government's intervention programmes. At the centre of this initiative has been the significant savings the state has been able to realise. The DBE is now looking at various ways of incrementally building this capacity.

(2) The department will continue to develop textbooks in critical subjects and other relevant study and support materials using specialists in the sector and opportunities of open source creative licences to avail quality LTSM to enhance teaching and learner performance. To date the department has developed Grade 10-11 CAPS aligned Mathematics and Physical Science

textbooks in partnership with Siyavula. The department is presently developing the Grade 12 textbooks for these subjects, using the same process.

(3) Schools are afforded the choice of textbooks from the National Catalogue. This is a practice that will continue.

(4) The provision of a textbook for each learner in each subject is the ultimate goal of the Department of Basic Education. In the past we have always been dependent on what publishers have in the market and at a price dictated by them. The process of development from inception to final product ensures a quality textbook is available in the system at an affordable price.

(5) (a) The development of textbooks by the department has been discussed at all relevant structures of the sector.

(b) The plan is still under discussion.