

RECEIVED
02 SEP 2013

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 2056

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF INTERNAL QUESTION PAPERS: 16/08/2013

(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 27/2013)

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

- (1) With reference to her reply to question 1598 on 30 July 2013, what additional areas of learning have been identified for the piloting of the teacher diagnostic assessments developed by her Department;
- (2) (a) When and (b) Where will the assessments be administered;
- (3) Who will take responsibility for the (a) administration of the tests, (b) diagnostic assessment of the results and (c) appropriate interventions;
- (4) Whether teacher unions have been consulted on the piloting of the assessments; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (5) What are the details of her intention to implement teacher diagnostic assessments as a routine management tool?

NW2478E

RESPONSES:

- (1) **With reference to her reply to question 1598 on 30 July 2013, what additional areas of learning have been identified for the piloting of the teacher diagnostic assessments developed by her Department?**

The DBE has prepared assessments in Mathematics and English First Additional Language thus far.

(2) **(a) When and (b) Where will the assessments be administered?**

(a) The pilot will take place from January to March to 2014 and the feedback from the pilot will inform the processes of implementation. (b) The assessments will initially take place at district support centres and schools. However, during full roll-out the assessments would be accessible ^{to} by individuals through the internet on the DBE website

(3) **Who will take responsibility for the (a) administration of the tests, (b) diagnostic assessment of the results and (c) appropriate interventions?**

(a) The pilot will be managed by DBE through the provincial departments and districts. The roll-out will consist of self-diagnostic tests, thus the teacher herself/himself will manage the administration. The assessments are self-contained user-friendly web-based assessments.

(b) This is a computer adaptive testing model and thus the analyses will run automatically in the background while the assessment is being done. Feedback on the assessment would be instant after completion of the assessment. During the pilot stage the analyses will be outsourced by DBE.

(c) As per the strategic framework the short courses will be endorsed by SACE and managed by the DHET, PEDS, universities, NGOs, etc.

(4) **Whether teacher unions have been consulted on the piloting of the assessments; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?**

Yes, unions were already involved during the formulation of the strategic framework which was signed by all unions in 2010 and progress reports are discussed in the relevant structures.

(5) **What are the details of her intention to implement teacher diagnostic assessments as a routine management tool?**

The assessments are developmental tools which will focus on self-development by teachers. Teachers will use the tool for self-management purposes and could use information from the diagnostic assessments for discussions with supervisors to provide progress on addressing areas of need as well as form the basis for further development programmes.