

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION 229**

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Dr JC Kloppers- Lourens (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

1. Whether any contracts have been awarded to deliver or support the Edusol SAMS project; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) when was each of these contracts awarded, (b) to whom, (c) what were the specifications of each case contract and (d) what was the value of each contract;
2. whether a tender process was followed in each case; if not why not; if so , in each case, (a) who submitted tenders and (b) what was the value of each tender? NW277E

REPLY:

1. No contracts have been awarded; the Edusol source code for a school administration system was fully donated to the Department of Education by the DEVED Trust (an NGO) in 2005. The source code was further developed internally by the Department of Education and the product was renamed to SA-SAMS (South African School Administration and Management System). As all development work on the application was done internally from 2005 to March 2008, there were no tenders or contracts awarded by the DoE for the delivery or support of SA-SAMS.
2. The tender process was not followed, as it is not necessary to follow a tender process if the service of the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) is used. During the financial year 2008/9, the Department of Education entered into an Application Support Service Level Agreement with the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) to support all the applications of the Department of Education. Additional modules for SA-SAMS were developed during 2008 via services on this SLA with SITA. The additional modules developed by SITA were:
 - SIAS module for special needs learners (Screening, Identification, Assessment and Support)

- The IQMS module for the performance evaluation of educators (Integrated Quality Management System)
- The library module

SITA services are engaged for maintenance and code enhancements on SA-SAMS as and when required, via the application support service level agreement.

The SA-SAMS application is available to all schools free of charge and is rolled out to schools on CD via provincial EMIS units. The provincial education departments are responsible for the user support and training on SA-SAMS for schools.