

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 2308

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

- (1) Whether an investigation into the reasons for the delay in the implementation of e-education has been carried out; if so, what are the details of the reasons determined;
- (2) Whether a revised e-education implementation plan has been developed; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details including the (a) outcomes, (b) role players and (c) time frames;
- (3) What amended time frame will be attached to achieve the goal of making every learner in the general and further education and training bands ICT capable as outlined in White Paper 7 of 2004;
- (4) Whether her department is engaged in efforts to ensure that teachers are trained to integrate the use of ICT in the teaching and learning process; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (5) Whether the (a) Ministerial e-Education Advisory Council and (b) e-Education inter-departmental team to monitor and manage the implementation of the e-Education policy and foster inter-governmental collaboration, as described in White Paper 7 of 2004, were appointed; if not, why not, in each case; if so, what are the relevant details of the (aa) appointment and (bb) progress made in each case? NW2756E

RESPONSE:

- (1) General indications from investigations are that the implementation of e-education in provinces is limited by:
 - Limited or lack of connectivity network coverage in rural areas where most schools are located;
 - High cost of connectivity; and
 - Reluctance of Network Operators to implement the e-Rate.
- (2) A draft revised e-education implementation plan has been developed consisting of the following:
 - (a) Outcomes: Integrate ICT into all levels of the education and training system in order to improve the quality of teaching and learning.

(b) Role-players:

- Department of Basic Education
- Provincial Education Departments
- Department of Communications
- Department of Higher Education and Training
- Department of Science and Technology
- Private sector and NGOs
- Higher Education Institutions

(c) Draft Timeframes

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| • Phase I - 2013/15: | Immediate |
| • Phase II - 2015/18: | Short-term |
| • Phase III - 2018/21: | Medium-term |
| • Phase IV - 2021/25: | Long-term |

(3) There is currently no specific amended timeframe attached to the achievement of the goal as outlined in White Paper 7 of 2004.

(4) Yes, the department is engaged in efforts to ensure that teachers are trained to integrate the use of ICT in the teaching and learning process. The following measures are taken to facilitate this process:

- Guidelines for Teacher Training and Professional Development in ICT were developed and distributed to provinces and other training agencies.
- Provincial Education Departments are responsible and conducting training of in-service teachers in ICT competencies.
- The Department has partnerships with private sector and other training agencies through which teacher training is also implemented.
- Higher Education Institutions are responsible for ensuring that ICT for teaching is a mandatory component of all pre-service teacher training.

(5)(a) There is no appointed Ministerial e-Education Advisory Council because the HEDCOM Sub-committee on ICT was performing the functions of this council.

(b) There is an e-Education Inter-Departmental team that is constituted of the Deputy Ministers of Department of Basic Education (DBE), Department of Communications (DoC) and Department of Science and Technology (DST). This team regularly monitors and manages the activities and programmes that various participating departments are engaged in regarding connectivity.