

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

### FOR WRITTEN REPLY QUESTION 149

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#### **Mr GG Boinamo to ask the Minister of Education:**

(1) Whether any problems have been experienced with regard to the availability of textbooks of the new curriculum in braille; if so, (a) to what extent and

(b) what caused these problems;

(2) Whether any steps have been taken to address these problems; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

**N167E**

#### **REPLY:**

(1) Yes there are problems with the production of braille textbooks for the new FET curriculum.

(a) Twelve schools with about 650 visually impaired learners require braille textbooks.

(b) The problem was caused by the new curriculum for the FET phase. The new curriculum offers 24 subjects, some of which required new textbooks. The sheer volume of textbooks to be brailled resulted in an overload at the 3 printing presses, which traditionally also print examination papers at the end of the year. It was not possible to extend the capacity of the presses at such short notice.

(2) The Department of Education is currently putting in place a schedule to support in-school production of braille texts using the braille printers and computers acquired by the schools through a partnership between the Department of Education and the Telkom Foundation.