

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 1870

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 21/2012)

Mr M A Nhanha (Cope) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

- (1) Whether she has been informed of the textbooks that were found in the Fort Beaufort district offices; if so, what steps has she taken in this regard;
- (2) Whether she has found any similarity with what has happened with textbooks in Limpopo recently; if not, how was this conclusion reached; if so, what are the relevant details?
NW2258E

RESPONSE:

- (1) No. On investigation the province reported that one of the old buildings in the District Office burnt down. It was a storage facility for the old Cape College of Education that was previously housed there. The books referred to date back to almost 15 years of the College. The books are all old and dated and were stock for the College left behind when it was closed down. They were not textbooks for learners in schools.
- (2) During the process of delivering textbooks to schools in the Limpopo Province it was reported in the media that textbooks and stationery were being shredded and burnt by a service provider in Seshego in Polokwane district in Limpopo Province. Investigations showed the following:
 - A service provider was contracted to the Limpopo Provincial Department of Education to collect disposed books from schools for shredding;
 - The service provider was provide with a letter from an official from Limpopo Provincial Department of Education informing schools to allow the service provider to collect and shred books;
 - The schools had handed over these books without following the disposal process;
 - Schools did not keep records of what was disposed off.

It is evident that the incidents are not similar.