

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 2602**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 13/09/2010**

**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 28-2010)**

**Dr C P Mulder (FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:†**

Whether her department has appointed an independent institution to investigate the status of mother-tongue education in single and dual-medium Afrikaans schools; if not, why not; if so, (a) which institution will conduct the investigation, (b) what are the estimated costs, (c) what instruction was given to the institution and (d) when will the investigation be completed?

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**REPLY**

No. The department has not appointed an independent institution to investigate the status of mother-tongue education in single and dual-medium Afrikaans schools. The department has to deal with the status of mother tongue education in all eleven languages. However, the department did commission a study on the Languages of Learning and Teaching (LoLT) in 2008.

- (a) The Education Policy Unit of the University of Witwatersrand was commissioned to do the study on the status of LoLT.
- (b) The cost of the study was R298 000.00.
- (c) The terms of reference for the study were as follows:
- Provide an overview of the policy on the Language of Learning and Teaching in Schools.
  - Analyse EMIS and SNAP data from 1997 to 2007 on home language and LoLT, and provide patterns thereof with respect to provinces, former education departments, race of learners and grades taught in the home language.
  - Undertake a qualitative study in all nine provinces to investigate why many traditionally single medium schools have shifted their policy on LoLT.
  - Assess the extent to which the LoLT corresponds to the home language of learners, particularly in the Foundation Phase.
  - Investigate changes in the racial demographics of the school population over time, and determine if there are any correlations with changes in LoLT of schools.
- (d) The report on the status of LoLT in schools will be finalized by end of 2010.