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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 1364

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 19/2013)

Mr R B Bhoola (MF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

Whether she intends to allocate increased weighting to physical education as part of the school curriculum; if not, why not? NW1695E

REPLY:

No, The Minister is not intending to increase the weighting to Physical Education. This is because Physical Education is now part of the subject Life Orientation (LO). In the Foundation and Intermediate Phases, other than Creative Arts, and Personal and Social Well-being as topics covered in LO, Physical Education is also covered. Similarly, in the Senior and FET Phases, Physical Education forms part of the topics covered which focus on Development of self in society, Health, World of work, Social and Environmental responsibilities, Democracy and Human Rights, Career and Career choices, and Study Skills

To increase weighting on one topic will have an impact on the other topics and would mean that the subject's intention is no longer achieved. As indicated above, the subject LO is not only about Physical Education but covers a wide range of other important topics.

The issues dealt within each topic are interrelated to all topics of the subject. Owing to the interrelatedness and holistic nature of the subject, the topics of Life Orientation function interdependently and are considered to be of equal importance. The time spent on each topic may vary and should not be used as a measure of the importance of the topic. The topics of Life Orientation in Grades 10, 11 and 12 relate to those in Grades R to 9. Both Life Orientation curricula focus on similar areas of skills, knowledge and values. The content taught in GET serves as the foundation for the content to be taught in the FET.

The regulations clarify the weighting as follows: The Physical Education Task (PET) constitutes the fifth task and is administered across all four school terms, with the exception of Grade 12, which is covered at three school terms. In the FET the mark allocation for the PET (Task 5) is

20% of the total mark out of 400 for Life Orientation, i.e. 80 marks. In the GET, the mark for Physical Education is 30 marks throughout each of the 4 terms.