

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY QUESTION 1279

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 22-09-2006
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 31-2006)

Mr G G Boinamo to ask the Minister of Education:

(1) Since the Promotion of Access to Information Act, Act 2 of 2000, came into effect, (a) how many times has it been used to obtain information from her department and (b) what documentation was requested in each instance;

(2) whether her department complied with such request in each instance; if not, why not; if so,

(3) whether her department complied within 30 days; if not, (a) why did her department not refuse the request, (b) how many times has a request thus refused been taken to court, (c) what was the outcome of the court case in each instance and (d) what were the associated costs of the litigation to her department in each case?

N1682E

REPLY

(1)(a) Four requests were received in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act. However, it should be noted that many more informal inquiries were made that do not fall into the ambit of the Act. They number in the hundreds and were dealt with administratively by the two information officers.

1(b) The first two requests concerned court cases. In the first, the requester, who was a former university lecturer at the University of the North, asked for documentation that dealt with a disciplinary judgment. As he planned to use this information in the preparation of an appeal, the request was refused.

The second request came from a Western Cape Technikon and concerned the issue of mergers of universities and technikons. The requester was referred to relevant documents that were not in the possession of the Department of Education.

The third and fourth requesters were prisoners and they were referred to the provincial education departments for information.

(2) Replies given in 1) (b)

(3) There was compliance with the 30 day requirement in all cases.

- (a) Only one request was refused because it did not comply with the Information Act.
- (b) Not applicable
- (c) Not applicable
- (d) Not applicable