

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY QUESTION 990

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 25-08-2006
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 25-2005)

Mr GG Bionamo to ask the Minister of Education:

(1) With reference to her reply to Question 110 for oral reply on 16 August 2006 that a Further Education and Training (FET) programme for teachers was run in 2005 and 2006, (a) how many training workshops were held and (b) where were they held;

(2) whether these training workshops are compulsory; if so, how many schools (a) were required to attend per province and (b) actually attended;

(3) whether any action was taken against those schools that did not attend the training workshops; if not, what steps were taken to ensure that those teachers who did not attend were trained in the FET curriculum; if so, what action?

N1268E

REPLY:

1 (a) & (b) The Department of Education is responsible for two aspects of teacher training: the training of provincial subject advisers to train teachers for the implementation of the new curriculum and the monitoring of provincial teacher-training workshops. The provincial departments of education are responsible for the actual training of teachers.

In 2005 the Department of Education conducted training workshops in all 29 subjects for provincial grade 10 subject advisers. This year similar workshops were held for grade 11 and 12 subject advisers, with a particular focus on content.

In 2005 all provinces, except Limpopo, indicated that they had trained grade 10 teachers in preparation for implementation of the new curriculum in grade 10 in 2006.

In 2006 all provinces reported to have trained or are in the process of training grade 11 and 12 teachers. Limpopo has indicated that it has also completed the training of grade 10 teachers during 2006.

The number of training workshops held differed from province to province. In the main, provinces ran teacher training workshops at district level for the high-enrolment subjects and at provincial level for low-enrolment subjects.

The workshop venues used included conference centres, higher education institutions and schools.

In 2005 the Department of Education monitored 116 venues across the 8 provinces, excluding Limpopo. During 2006 a similar number of venues are being monitored.

Approximately 50 000 teachers were trained in 2005. The total number of teachers trained in 2006 is indicated in the table below:

Province	2006	Nationally trained subjects	Totals
Eastern Cape	4616	388	5004
Western Cape	5059	830	5889
Northern Cape	1871	190	2061
Mpumalanga	5804	488	6292
Gauteng	14000	1263	15263
Limpopo	4300	429	4729
North West	10056	380	10436
Free State	3888	593	4481
KwaZulu-Natal	20566	911	21477
TOTAL	70160	5472	75632

In addition, the Department of Education conducted national teacher training workshops in the 15 low-enrolment subjects for teachers from all nine provinces during 2006. These subjects included the 5 Arts subjects, Computer Applications Technology (CAT), Information Technology (IT), the 3 Agricultural subjects, the 4 Technology subjects and Religion Studies.

The workshop venues used include conference centres, higher education institutions and schools.

2. No, they are not compulsory. Teachers at all public schools offering the grades 10 – 12 curriculum were invited to attend teacher training workshops. While teachers are encouraged to attend provincial teacher training workshops, they may choose to pursue other options such as university training for professional development purposes.

2 (a) Not applicable.

2 (b) Not applicable.

3. This is a provincial management issue. Provincial departments of education are expected to ensure that all schools and all teachers are prepared for the implementation of the new curriculum in grades 10-12. The teacher training process is not a once-off process and provincial officials would need to follow this up with support mechanisms such as school visits, and cluster workshops.

