

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR ORAL REPLY
QUESTION 37

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Adv A H Gaum to ask the Minister of Education:

What is her department's position with regard to mother-tongue education, with specific reference to a certain high school (name furnished)?

REPLY:

The Department of Education, through the language in education policy, encourages learners to learn in their mother tongue.

Learners in public schools have a right to choose any of the eleven official languages:

- as a language of learning and teaching, and
- as a subject from Grade 3 onwards.

With the intention of promoting indigenous languages, the Department also encourages all learners to have studied an African language for three years by the end of grade 9.

Given that further court action is pending, the Ermelo matter is *sub judice*. I will speak on the matter in this House once the case is finalized. All I can say is that as far as I am aware learners continue to be taught in a language of their choice.