

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 3345

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 42/2012)

Mrs A T Lovemore (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

- (1) (a) In what respects did (i) she or (ii) her predecessors invoke the powers of section 3(3) of the National Education Policy Act, Act 27 of 1996, in each case and (b) what (i) are the details of the *Government Gazette* in which the policy declaration was published and (ii) is the date of effect of such declaration;
- (2) what mechanisms are utilised by her and her department to give effect to the requirement outlined in section 8(4) of the specified Act;
- (3) what are the details of the reports published in terms of section 8(5) of the Act at the end of the past three financial years;
- (4) what are the policy provisions of her department in respect of section 8(6) of the Act when the standards of education (a) provision, (b) delivery and (c) performance in a province (i) do not comply with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, or (ii) are in conflict with the national policy on education, in each case;
- (5) whether she has ever required a provincial political head of education to submit a plan to remedy noncompliance with the requirements of the Act; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? NW4242E

Draft Response

1. Neither my predecessors nor I have ever invoked the provision of section 3(3) of the National Education Policy Act, 1996. The reasons are as follows:
 - The majority of provincial policies were reviewed after the NEPA was enacted;
 - Provincial policies are referred to HEDCOM Subcommittees (These are subcommittees convened by the DBE) for perusal and comments;
 - Most provincial policies are developed with reference and in compliance with national policies.

2. In order to realize the intention of section 8(4) of the National Education Policy Act, 1996, my department has initiated a grant referred to as ASIDI (Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative). An initiative that is part of a broader infrastructure programme to achieve an optimum functionality level in targeted schools infrastructure within the 2010-2014 Strategic Plan Period. The purpose of the grant is to eradicate inappropriate schools and ensure the provision of basic level water, sanitation and electricity supply to schools.

Monitoring reports based on analysis of data gathered by means of education management information systems and by other suitable means, in co-operation with provincial departments of education are published regularly. Further the Department has established various interprovincial consultative forums such as:

- HEDCOM Subcommittee on Financial Planning and Budget Processes;
 - HEDCOM Subcommittee on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation;
 - HEDCOM Subcommittee on EMIS, etc.
3. The following reports are produced by the Department:

- Education Statistics in South Africa based on the Annual School Survey (EMIS);
 - School Realities based on the snap survey (EMIS);
 - Macro Indicator Trends in Schooling based on various data sources; and
 - General Household Survey: focus on schooling based on Statistics South Africa data.
4. No such policy previously existed. In the event of conflict between national policy and the provincial policy, national policy prevails. Chances of such conflict arising is minimal in the sense that national policy is always developed after consultation with MEC's through the Council of Education Ministers.
5. No