

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

### FOR WRITTEN REPLY QUESTION 1178

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#### **Mr G G Boinamo to ask the Minister of Education:**

(1) What were the reasons for her department's delay in assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of district offices in the public schools system as reported in an article in a certain newspaper (details furnished);

(2) whether her department has any plans to address the lack of (a) skills, (b) resources, (c) personnel, (d) technology, (e) equipment and (f) funding of the district offices; if not, why not; if so, what are the (i) relevant details and (ii) timeframes?

**N1573E**

#### **REPLY:**

(1) There was no delay in assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of district offices. My Department has for some time now been concerned with improving the capacity of district offices.

There is no legislation that covers districts directly. Instead they are created by provincial departments as part of their approved structures. This results in the increasing provincial divergence of district office structures, and this affects the quality of service provision.

Government has also been assessing the capacity of the state with a view to improving the provision of services. In this regard government commissioned the DPSA to conduct assessments of capacity throughout the government service. In the first phase, assessments were carried out by the Departments of Education, Health, Justice and Local Government and a report was presented to the July 2006 cabinet lekgotla.

On 29 August 2006 my Department presented the main recommendations of this report to the Education Portfolio Committee.

(2) Proper planning is required to give effect to these recommendations, including securing the necessary resources (both human and capital) for management and administrative support. The matter of capacity has always been a priority for our provincial education departments and they are attending to this in a number of ways. The following matters are also being looked at as part of the capacity improvements by my Department:

- A national framework that will standardize the organization, systems, staffing and funding of districts.

- The clarification of the roles and functions of districts and the work division between themselves and provincial education head offices, with delegated powers that ensure accountability for teaching and learning.
- The development of post-provisioning norms for the staffing of district offices.
- A national audit of district structures, systems, operations and capacities to establish a database for informed intervention at district level, regarding resource and skills capacity building.
- The development of a profile card for each district that will help districts to achieve acceptable levels of capacity in relation to their provincial contexts and in line with international benchmarks.