

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 2067.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 27/05/2022

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 20/2022

2067. Mrs C C S Motsepe (EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

What steps have been taken by her department to deal with the challenge of substance abuse in schools?

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Response

The Department of Basic Education collaborates with the Central Drug Authority (CDA), a statutory body established in terms of the Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse Act, 2008 (Act No. 70 of 2008). The DBE supports the implementation of the CDA Drug Master Plan, as reflected in the annual report.

The DBE has developed the *National Strategy for the Prevention and Management of Alcohol and Drug Use Amongst Learners in Schools*, accompanied by *Drug Testing Guidelines*, which are currently under review to ensure these remain abreast of evidence-based developments in the field.

In addition, the resource *High-on-Life Toolkit*, was co-developed with the African Youth Development Agency and is used to capacitate District Co-ordinators to prevent the abuse of substances in schools.

In the course of 2021 through 2022 financial years, the Minister and Deputy Minister of Education are leading a multi-sectoral programme in all nine provinces towards the *Prevention of Violence, Bullying, Corporal Punishment, Gender-based Violence, Discrimination and the Abuse of Alcohol and Substances in Schools*.