

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 690.

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690. . Mr L M Komane (EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

Whether there are any plans in place to review the school syllabus; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

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Response

The DBE, in 2020 as part of the COVID recovery response, committed to a two (2) pronged programme which includes the Learning Recovery Programme and a Programme to Strengthen the Curriculum. For the purpose of this response, we will focus on the Curriculum Strengthening programme, which has as its aim, to equip our learners with competencies and skills for the future.

Curriculum Strengthening is an umbrella programme that focus on 5 levers of change to improve learning outcomes. These levers are, the review and updating of the curriculum and assessment policy statement (CAPS), review and updating assessment practices to focus on learning, improve the capacity of teachers to include active learning pedagogies, revise the learning and teaching support material (LTSM) toward improving the skills and competencies of our learners. Due to the centrality of the curriculum in this process, the work started with a focus on the curriculum policy and will gradually be extended towards other programmes. As a starting point, to improve alignment across the 5 levers, the DBE adopted the Basic Education competency framework, which outlines the priority skills and competencies to be prioritised across the 5 levers. In terms of the CAPS, this will result in the review and updating of the skills, knowledge, attitudes, character and values across all subjects and grades. In addition, a number of aligned activities are also taking place across the remaining levers. Currently the sector is developing an integrated 5 year plan for implementation during the tenure of the 7th administration.

In effect, a review and the strengthening of the curriculum must take place in a considered and well consulted fashion.