

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORAL REPLY

QUESTION 140.

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140. . Ms N G Adoons (ANC) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

What are the impactful plans to increase the number of students enrolling in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects as the National Senior Certificate results have reflected progress in improving education outcomes?

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Response

What are the impactful plans to increase the number of students enrolling in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects.

The following **Key Activities** have been identified for the successful implementation of the MST Education Strategy:

- The **establishment of MST Directorates/Institutes** both at the National and Provincial levels with the necessary structure and capacity to ensure effective co-ordination, support, monitoring and alignment of the MST Education activities across the provinces.
- **Continuous review of MST curriculum offerings responding to the skills required for the 4th industrial revolution in both GET and FET phases** is equally critical to ensure that appropriate content and methodology is evident in teaching and learning in all classrooms to increase participation and performance. In this respect significant developments have been made in the development of a **Mathematics Framework** which is directed at introducing a balanced and a multidimensional approach for the teaching of mathematics in South Africa and which paves the way for creativity, innovation, problem solving and conceptual understanding in a dynamic classroom setting.
- **Further cognisance is being given to the introduction of skills required for the 21st Century in line with STEM. Some of these include Marine, Nautical and Maritime, Aerospace, Robotics, Space Sciences, Aviation and E-Commerce and Entrepreneurship.**
- **Teacher Development** remains a critical dimension of the MST Education Strategy and needs to be based on an audit of teachers' competency levels and the development of appropriate programmes based on content and methodology to provide extensive teacher development on a continuous basis to create a classroom environment conducive to effective learning and teaching. Key to supporting MST teachers in schools are the **Subject Advisors** whose expertise and skills are required to identify and support teachers in maintaining standards expected of the curriculum.
- **The provisioning of appropriate facilitates, equipment and learning support material** in accordance with national norms and standards is key to providing learners with substantial experiential exposure for better understanding, problem solving and preparation for the world of work. The acceleration of academic, technical and occupational schools will increase accessibility to focused schools of learning for all learners particularly in Mathematics, Science and Technology with greater emphasis on several low participating subjects including Agricultural Sciences and Technology.

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- National assessments including **National Senior Certificate, Standardized** and International Assessments and Monitoring Tools including **TIMSS and SACMEQ** continue to be used as a means of monitoring the successes and/or challenges in the implementation of the MST Education Strategy.