

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 527. [Ê73]

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527. [Ê73]. Mrs N R Mashabela (EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

[Question submitted for oral reply now placed for written reply because it is in excess of quota (Rule 137(8))]:

Whether, considering the rate at which learners between Grade 1 and Grade 12 drop out of school, she has considered placing social workers at each school and/or cluster of schools to provide assistance to principals to help lower and eventually eliminate the drop-out rate; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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Response

DBE is working in collaboration with the Department of Social Development for the provision of social workers to support clusters of schools through the School Based Support Teams (SBSTs).

DBE has appointed School Social Workers at District levels, to support clusters of schools as part of the District Based Support Teams (DBSTs).

Furthermore, Universities are placing student social workers, that are supervised by these institutions of higher learning, to support the provision of psychosocial and social (PSS) welfare services for learners.

To improve the availability of PSS services for learners, DBE has piloted the placement Learner Support Agents in high burden schools. In collaboration with Non-Governmental Organisation and Implementing Partners, Social Auxillary Workers visit schools to provide PSS to the learners, and link them to services as required.

Through the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative (PYEI), the DBE has also placed Care and Support Agents in schools to provide PSS to learners, in schools where there are no Learner Support Agents.