

NATIONAL NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 65.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 16/02/2023

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 02/2023

**65. Ms M Dlamini (Mpumalanga: EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:
to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

Investigation into cheating

(a) What is the status of the investigations into the cheating of learners and educators in the 2022 matric examination period and (b) how long will it take to be concluded?

NATIONAL NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 65.

Response

The provincial education departments (PEDs) and the Department of Basic Education (DBE) conduct investigations into examination irregularities in line with the *Regulations pertaining to the Conduct, Administration and Management of the National Senior Certificate Examination*.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education and the DBE have conducted preliminary interviews with the school principals and the teachers of schools implicated in the irregularities. In addition, preliminary interviews were conducted with the candidates from schools that are implicated in the alleged irregularities.

Furthermore, the DBE and the PED conducted investigative marking in various subjects. The investigative marking was done by subject experts from both the DBE and the PED.

Following the preliminary interviews and the investigative marking, the PED proceeded with hearings for the learners implicated in the alleged irregularities. The hearings are being monitored by the DBE. The hearings give each learner that is implicated an opportunity their version of events. These hearings are chaired by an independent presiding officer.

The evidence emanating from the preliminary interviews, investigative marking and the hearings will then be evaluated by the Provincial Examinations Irregularity Committee. The decisions of this committee will then be presented to the National Examinations Irregularity Committee for ratification.

The teachers and officials who are implicated in the alleged irregularities are subjected to labour relations processes in line with the *Employment of Educators Act 76 of 1998, as amended*, and the *Public Service Act, 1994*.

Given that all irregularities are governed by clear policies and conducted within the current legislative framework, the process cannot be rushed. It is imperative that the principles of fairness, reliability and validity of assessment are upheld in all investigations relating to examination irregularities.