

NATIONAL NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 11.

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**11.. Ms L H Arries (North West: EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:
to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

Implementation of recommendations

With reference to the compiled report and recommendations made by the Commission for

Gender Equality on teenage pregnancies (details furnished), (a) what are the reasons for the

insistence not to implement such recommendations, (b) when will her department address

such recommendations and (c) what are the relevant details on the roll-out plan and dates in

this regard?

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Response

a) The Department of Basic Education (DBE) has never insisted on not implementing the recommendations of the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) report as the intersecting vulnerabilities underpinned the development of the Policy, which acknowledges the findings and recommendations from the report and similar research.

b) In line with the recommendations of the CGE report, the Department of Basic Education continues to advocate for the implementation of the DBE Policy on the Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy in Schools which aims at providing an enabling and supporting environment where learners that are pregnant are safe, free of stigma and discrimination. The intersecting vulnerabilities and access to sexual and reproductive health services require access to professional services and therefore schools are mandated to refer learners to health facilities.

c) Between July 2022 and February 2023, DBE disseminated the Policy in all nine provinces to ensure further distribution to districts and schools. Provinces were further supported with the distribution of copies of the policy to quintile 1 - 3 schools. The DBE is currently finalising Guidelines on the Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy to provide implementation support to schools.