

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORAL REPLY

QUESTION 377.

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

What (a) initiatives is her department implementing to promote mother tongue education which is a critical factor for effective teaching and learning that develops the cognitive capabilities of children and (b) is the extent of investment by her department in developing mother-tongue education for various subjects?

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Response

a. The Department of Basic Education (DBE) is in the process of initiating Mother Tongue-Based Bilingual Education (MTBBE), wherein African languages will be utilised as languages of learning and teaching beyond Grade 3; entering the space previously enjoyed by English and Afrikaans. The DBE subscribes to the notion that learners learn best through their home languages. The DBE is of firm belief that through the MTBBE, learning outcomes will improved.

b. Already the MTBBE has been piloted by the Eastern Cape Department of Education, wherein IsiXhosa and Sesotho are utilised for learning and teaching up to Grade 9 for all the content subjects (Mathematics, Natural Science and Technology, Social Sciences, etc.). The Eastern Cape is currently implementing the MTBBE in all the districts in the province. On scaling up the MTBBE to the other eight provinces the DBE is going to adopt the Eastern Cape model.