

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 4705.**

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**4705.. Mr S L Ngcobo (IFP) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

(1) Whether her department intends to divert funds from the SA Council of Educators (SACE) into the training of teachers in Robotics; if not, (a) what is the position in this regard and (b) how is her department going to fund the 4IR initiatives in schools without compromising her department's already stretched-out budget; if so, how;

(2) whether her department will assist SACE to promote the professional development of teachers with the decrease in funds; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the further, relevant details?

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#### Response

In response to the questions that are raised by **Mr S L Ngcobo (IFP), NA/NCOP Reference No NW5828E** on the undermentioned questions, the Minister responds as follows:

**(1). Whether her department intends to divert funds from the SA Council of Educators (SACE) into the training of teachers in Robotics.**

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) does not intend to divert funds from the South African Council for Educators (SACE) for the delivery of teacher training on Robotics. The funds that are allocated to this organisation are mainly meant to support ACE to put systems in place and implement these to meet the professional development needs of all teachers in the country.

In addition to this point, it is worth noting that the implementation of the Continuing Professional Teacher Development Management System (i.e. CPTD System) not only assists in ensuring that all teachers who work with learners in our schools are fit and proper to practice as educators but also ensures that teachers participate on continuing professional teacher development programmes which improve their content and pedagogic knowledge. Any attempt to divert funds that have been allocated to SACE to other priorities in the sector will have severe consequences on SACE's ability to carry out its mandate (i.e. Professional registration of teachers, putting systems in place to support teachers to adhere to high ethical standards, teacher motivation to participate on professional development programmes and earning of Professional Development points (PD points), inculcating a sense of professionalism among teachers and many other important attributes which support quality teaching and learning in all our schools.

**(2). Whether her department will assist SACE to promote the professional development of teachers with the decrease in funds; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the further, relevant details?**

The DBE continues to support SACE in ensuring that it achieves on its mandate, hence a well thought out process is undertaken to inform funding allocation for the various budget cycles. The following information on the projected budgets which are linked to the various MTEF cycles provides sufficient evidence on the DBE's engagement on well-thought out processes when allocating funding to SACE:

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- **2023/2024 budget cycle:** allocation of **R15,5 Million**;
- **2024/2025 budget cycle:** allocation of **R16,4 Million**; and
- **2025/2026 budget cycle:** allocation of **R17,1 Million**.

The picture that is presented above shows that there is an upward adjustment on the budget that the DBE allocates to SACE, despite the difficult economic situation that the country is going through due to global factors.

In addition, during this financial year (2022/2023) the DBE has supported SACE to access additional funding by adjusting the monthly Levy that is paid by all teachers from R15,00 to R16,50. National Treasury has already started with the implementation of the revised levy. The step that the DBE took needs to be seen as a strategic move which stands to bring additional revenue to SACE and which will also strengthen the effective implementation of the CPTD-Management System.