

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORAL REPLY

QUESTION 699.

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INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 41/2022

699. Mr W T Letsie (ANC) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

What is the progress with the implementation of the pilot programme and curriculum development that her department is currently piloting for coding and robotics and undertaking a curriculum review to adapt our education curriculum to the changing world?

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Response

To date, 200 primary schools have been identified by Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) or piloting Coding and Robotics for Grades R-3. 1 000 primary schools, have been identified for piloting in Grade 7; and 569 secondary schools have been identified to pilot to Grades 8 and 9 in 2023.

All pilot schools have received the draft Coding and Robotics Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS). Resources supplied by the DBE, include sample lesson plans to support educators; and PEDs have procured Coding and Robotics resources, such as tablets, laptops, sensors, micro-controllers and mechanical components. District Subject Advisors and school-based educators have received training and orientation.

Partnerships between the DBE, numerous Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) as well as the University of South Africa, have resulted in significant online resources being availed to learners and educators alike; with coding clubs for learners, being established and supported. Competitions and exhibitions further generate interest and opportunity for learners to showcase their skills and ingenuity.

Public comments and Umalusi directives received by the DBE, as well as inputs made at an intensive workshop convened from 17-21 October 2022, with academics, subject advisors and educators with appropriate expertise in this field, have resulted in a much-improved CAPS for Robotics and Coding. This document is currently being scrutinised for quality assurance by an independent reference team, following which review, the final draft CAPS will be re-submitted to UMalusi for approval, prior to its implementation.