

NATIONAL NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 793. [E112]

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793. [E112] Mr N M Hadebe (KwaZulu-Natal: IFP) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

(1) Whether, in line with the National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy (details furnished), her department has implemented any programmes to develop the human resource and management skills, particularly of principals in early childhood development centres; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether her department has sourced funding to build the capacity of early childhood development practitioners; if not, why not; if so, (a) what criteria was used to (i) allocate and (ii) monitor such funding and (b) what are the further relevant details?

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Response

Whether, in line with the National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy (details furnished), her department has implemented any programmes to develop the human resource and management skills, particularly of principals in early childhood development centres; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

DBE has developed the Human Resources Development Strategy for ECD based on the National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy.

The department is on the process of developing an ECD Human Resource Workforce Plan (HRDP) which makes provision for appropriate cadres of early childhood development workforce to support the implementation of the national integrated Early Childhood Development Policy. This include:

- Articulation of the qualifications of the ECD Practitioners and support staff at different levels;
- Continuing professional development, skills and in-service training, including recognition of prior learning;
- Guidelines for early learning and development (caregivers);
- Registration with SACE for ECD educators and practitioners; and
- Norms and Standards for admin and other support staff.

The HRDP will build on two policy documents:

- The Human Resources Development Strategy for Early Childhood Development (based on the National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy) (2018); and
- The Policy on Minimum Requirements for Programmes Leading to Qualifications in Higher Education for Early Childhood Development Educators.

2. Whether her department has sourced funding to build the capacity of early childhood development practitioners; if not, why not; if so, (a) what criteria was used to (i) allocate and (ii) monitor such funding and (b) what are the further relevant details?

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The Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) fund for the capacity building of ECD practitioners using their respective provincial equitable shares.

- a. Criteria used:
 - i. The allocation is based on the availability of the budget as well as the needs of provinces.
 - ii. Monitoring of funds is performed by the departmental officials within the Early Childhood programme in the provinces as well as the DBE.