

NATIONAL NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 797. [E126]

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797. [E126] Ms S B Lehihi (North West: EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

Whether any security measures have been taken to ensure that Grade 12 examination papers are not leaked as this has become the norm around this time of the year; if not, why not; if so, what measures?

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Response

The Department of Basic Education, in conjunction with the Provincial Education Departments (PEDs), has conducted an intensive post examination review to establish the areas that need to be strengthened and improved, ahead of the 2022 NSC examinations, in the light of the breaches that occurred in previous years.

In addition, the printing, packing, storage and distribution sites for question papers was jointly audited by the DBE and the State Security Agency (SSA). Question papers were only released for printing to PEDs after they fully complied with the security requirements. All PEDs must adhere to Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the handling of question papers. The DBE and PEDs will continue to monitor all processes relating to the printing, packing, storage and distribution of question papers, during the full duration of the examination.

PEDs have improved the security measures at the storage points for question papers. These storage points were audited by the PEDs and DBE, and monitoring of these storage points will continue throughout the examination period. In order to ensure that question papers are not collected by school principals, too early in the morning, norm times have been set by the DBE and the application of these norm times will be monitored by the DBE.

The DBE has also conducted an extensive State of Readiness (SoR) evaluation of each of the provincial head offices and their districts. Risks relating to the entire examination cycle were identified and mitigation strategies were jointly agreed upon.

Each candidate sitting for the November 2022 Examinations, together with their parents or guardians have signed a commitment agreement to comply strictly with the rules and procedures relating to the integrity of the National Senior Certificate Examinations. Candidates were also informed of the consequences of non-compliance. Candidates and their parents/guardians have also undertaken to report to the school principals, any information that they may have relating to compromises in the examination.