

NATIONAL NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 954

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954. Ms D C Christians (Northern Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

Recommendations of AG

. (1) What (a) national and (b) provincial plans have been (i) developed and (ii) implemented to overcome the unchanged 9% of Black African or Coloured candidates who are enrolled at one niche of technology-focussed subjects in matric between 2018 and 2021; (2) what are her department's plans to support the provincial education departments within the context of the recommendations of the Auditor-General of South Africa (details furnished)?

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Response

1(a) The Integrated National Mathematics, Science and Technology (INMST) Strategy (2019-2030), developed by the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in collaboration with all Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) enumerates four Strategic Aims, detailed below.

The DBE and each PED have developed Implementation Plans which are derived from the Strategy. Furthermore, the DBE has prioritised increased learner enrolment in Technical subjects, as reflected in its Annual Performance Plan which states:

- Number of Technical schools monitored for implementation of Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS). This requires monitoring visits to Technical Schools to monitor and support the Implementation of Specialisation subjects.
- Number of schools monitored for piloting the coding and robotics curriculum. The activity requires the conduct of Monitoring and Support oversight visits in provinces to ensure appropriate curriculum implementation is taking place.
- Number of schools per province monitored for utilisation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) resources. The activity requires the conduct of Monitoring and Support oversight visits in provinces.
- An Annual Sector Report is produced on the establishment of Focus Schools per PED. Focus Schools are a clearly defined vehicle for the delivery of specialised curricula to learners with special talents, aptitudes and interests which embrace Technology and Technical Specialisation subject offerings, including Technical Mathematics, Technical Sciences and Marine Sciences.

Excerpt from the INMST Strategy (2019-2030)

Strategic Aim 1 is directed by the Intended Curriculum. Appropriate contents and delivery methods of curriculum ensure quality learning that would increase the interest of learners and is key to improving both participation and performance of learners in MST. Many MST subjects have a progressive nature for both contents and methodologies, and need to respond to the “real world”. Development of the Strategic Focuses of “Textbooks”, “Teacher’s Guide” and “Teaching/Learning Materials” is also associated with Strategic Aim 1. In this phase, action research and/or pilot programmes based on challenges identified are executed in the short term to find possible solutions that could improve learning and teaching. The development, expansion and implementation of these activities in the medium to long term would

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result in a closer alignment between the intended outcome and attained outcome. It is equally important that the implemented curriculum responds appropriately to the skills required for the 4th Industrial Revolution, including Information and Data Analysis, Curiosity, Creativity, Innovation, Intuition, Responsibility, Endurance, Collaboration, Negotiation and Balancing Rights and Freedoms. Utilising Art and ICT's across the curriculum would further enhance the methodology for the promotion of the soft skills. Subjects related to Arts and Culture therefore provide further opportunities for learners to acquire technical as well as creative and innovative skills.

Strategic Aim 2 is directed at ensuring that there are sufficient, competent and qualified MST teachers to continuously improve the quality of learning and teaching in the classroom supported by adequate training and development and appropriate resources.

Strategic Aim 3 is directed at ensuring the adequate provisioning of Strategic resources including facilities, equipment, textbooks, teacher guides and teaching and learning materials.

Strategic Aim 4 is directed at the involvement and contribution of key partnerships to further enhance education delivery.

2) As detailed above.