

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 2539.

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2539.. Dr S S Thembekwayo (EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

Noting that the underperformance of schools is not the sole responsibility of principals, but also includes School Management Teams (SMTs), what steps has she and/or her department taken to ensure that the underperforming (a) SMTs and/or (b) educators are held accountable?

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Response

According to sections 16A and 58B of the South African Schools, 1996 (Act No. 84 of 1996), the identification, management and support of underperforming schools is the competence of the provincial education departments (PEDs). Principals, School Management Teams (SMTs) and educators account at provincial level. According to section 58B (7), the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) must report to the Minister within three months after the end of the school year, on actions taken by the Head of Department regarding an underperforming public school.

Notwithstanding the above, the Department of Basic Education supports PEDs. In line with that, the Department has done the following:

1. Capacity-Building Schools. The programme reached out to 2 916 SMTs in 2020/21; and during Quarters 1 and 2 of 2021/22, 1 655 Departmental Heads (DHs) were trained. The programme is continuing.

2. SMTs were also taken through the **Action Plan to 2024: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030**, the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTEF) Goal 21, in ensuring that the basic annual management processes were taking place across all schools in the country as outlined:

- Availability of Management Documents,
- Annual Academic Performance Report,
- Academic Performance Improvement Plan,
- School Improvement Plan,
- Annual Teaching Plan, and
- Admission Processes.

3. The DBE also conducts monitoring and support visits to underperforming schools. During the visits, the SMTs and educators account for performance in their departments and subjects, respectively. The analyses of learner performance is used to deal with issues of underperformance. The average performance per subject indicates the quality of the passes in the respective subjects (**see attachment A**). The support visits also serve to capacitate DHs on curriculum management.