

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 2724.

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2724. Mrs D van der Walt (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

[ê443] [Question submitted for oral reply now placed for written reply because it is in excess of quota (Rule 137(8))]:

Whether her department has put any mechanisms in place to ensure that learners are not able to access (a) pornographic and/or other harmful content and (b) social media sites on tablets received from their schools; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

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Response

a) The Basic Education Sector has established online portals loaded with CAPS aligned as well as enrichment digital education content. Furthermore, the Basic Education Sector also developed, packaged and distributed digital materials to schools loaded on the offline repositories to be accessed by learners where the Basic Education Sector has rolled out tablets. The Department has also made strides in pushing for the use of technology to provide support to learners through virtual classrooms, broadcasting, video streaming, and online content resources.

(b) Learners have access to secured online portals such as Thutong Education Portal, DBE Cloud, MTN Online School, Vodacom e-School, Lightbulb, Tswelopele, and Woza Matric as well as provincial online platforms. It should be noted that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the DBE, DCDT, and ICASA, in collaboration with Mobile Network Operators, zero-rated and whitelisted all the educational websites. In conclusion, as part of the auctioning of the High Demand Spectrum, my department will work together with the licensees to provide learners with appropriate educational content on the secured online platforms.