

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 3082.

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3082. Mr V Zungula (ATM) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

- (1) Given the media reports (details furnished) that some German teachers working in the Republic stated that they hope discussions between the President of the Republic, Mr M C Ramaphosa and their country's Federal Chancellor, Mr Olaf Scholz, will include challenges around obtaining visas and work permits, what was the criteria for offering such teachers employment opportunities whilst many local teachers are unemployed;
- (2) were any due processes followed to ensure that the specified vacancies could not be filled by any unemployed South African;
- (3) whether it is her department's policy to recognise teaching as a scarce skill?

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Response

1. The matter referred to in the media as cited in the question, relates to teachers teaching at International German Schools, which are not part of the public schooling system, and are dealt with in terms of South Africa's visa/work-permit policies that apply to every employer seeking to employ foreigners.

2. As indicated above, the matter does not relate to public schools.

3. The Department does recognise specific skills or specialisation areas in teaching as scarce skills hence the introduction of initiatives such as the Funza Lushaka Bursary Scheme. Furthermore, the Critical Skills List which came into effect in February 2022 as published by the Department of Home Affairs lists skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects for Senior and Further Education and Training Phases. Like any other employer, Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) could utilise the dispensation. However, all necessary processes including ensuring that there is no South African to fill the post will have to be followed.