

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORAL REPLY

QUESTION 370.

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370. Mr A M Shaik Emam (NFP) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

Given that approximately 91 000 children, a large percentage of whom are still at school, gave birth to children in the past financial year, what measures is her department putting in place to guide and educate the learners to (a) prevent the high pregnancy rate and, more importantly, (b) ensure that learners concentrate on their school careers to uplift their lives?

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Response

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) launched the DBE Policy on the Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy in Schools. The policy seeks to reduce the incidence of learner pregnancy through the provision of quality Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and access to adolescent and youth-friendly Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) services.

The DBE is currently disseminating the DBE Policy on the Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy in schools to accelerate the implementation of the policy. The provincial stakeholders including Provincial AIDS Councils and partners are brought on board to enable a multi-sectoral approach to mitigate incidents of Early and Unintended Pregnancies/ Sexual Harassment/sexual violence/rape and/or GBV.

The Department is also expanding the coverage of schools offering Comprehensive Sexuality Education using Scripted Lesson Plans to ensure that learners are aware of the age of consent and have the skills to protect themselves against sexual abuse and violence.

The Department through the Minister continues to engage learners on prevention of pregnancy through the Let's Talk prevention of Early and Unintended Pregnancies Ministerial Dialogues. The Minister through the dialogues creates awareness with learners on the importance of focusing on their education while debating on measures learners can take to protect themselves against pregnancy.