

NATIONAL NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 668.

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**668. . Ms S B Lehihi (North West: EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:
to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

Contracts for Assistant Educators

- (1) What plans are in place to extend the contracts of Assistant Educators (details furnished);
- (2) whether any plans are in place to recruit new educators to fill the gap which was left by Assistant Educators; if not, why not; if so, (a) what plans and (b) what are the further relevant details?

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Response

RESPONSE to 1 and 2

The Presidential Youth Employment Initiative implemented in the Basic Education sector is an intervention of the honourable President of fighting the huge challenge of youth unemployment that is experienced by all countries including South Africa. The other purpose of the intervention is to provide the youth with decent jobs, meaningful work experience as well as skilling the youth through various formal and informal training. The reports released by *StatsSA Census Mid-Year Population Estimates 2022* indicates that the country has 20.6 million youth in the ages 15 – 35 years, and of the 20.6 million, 10 million youth are not in education, employment or training (NEET). According to South African Labour Development and Research Unit (SALDRU) “Young people who are NEET are arguably the most vulnerable group in the labour market and at risk of social exclusion, especially when they have been NEET for a prolonged period.” This is one of the reasons that the intervention is addressing this category of youth through mass job opportunities, however as a fixed short-term contract. The intention is to reach as many young people as possible and provide capacity and skills through training.

Through the intervention, the Basic Education sector placed youth in schools to support teaching and learning as well as maintenance of schools building and environments through provision of General School Assistants. The Education Assistants were not placed in schools to replace professional teachers and their roles were clearly defined. The programme is not intended as a permanent solution but temporary in nature hence the youth are deployed in big numbers in our schools. Government continue to call on business both locally, regionally and international to create jobs, funding and learning opportunities for the youth of South Africa.

Plans for Phase IV of the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative in the Basic Education are underway and will be implemented in February 2023. The advertisements have been issued on 5 September 2022 and applications will be open on 26 September 2022 closing on 16 October 2022. The interviews are scheduled for last week of November and first week of December 2022. Start date for contracts being 1 February 2023.

Provinces continue to fill the vacant posts of Teachers on a continuous basis.