



Republic of Namibia

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

BY

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DEPUTY MINISTER

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On the other hand, our learners from both private and government schools compete and are awarded together as Namibian children.

Questions from Hon Limbo

1. What measure (s) the Minister and Ministry will have to put in place in order to improve results in the region in this academic year?

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members

As a Ministry we are aware of the fact that some schools are not performing to the expectation that we wish them to. In fact the Ministry does not adopt a wait and see attitude, neither do we turn a blind eye to the realities. We still maintain that there are many factors that we need to address to obtain the results that we need. With continued commitment and using appropriate strategies we shall indeed see many learners passing. As for the strategies for improvement, we as a Ministry did the following in the last two months;

Regional councils and directorates of education, Arts and culture was tasked at the beginning of this academic year to revisit and strengthen their regional improvement plans. All regions held stakeholder meetings on exactly how to improve learning outcomes. All forces are joined to aim high and work towards meeting that target.

At these events all stakeholders were engaged, regional councils, Town Councils, Education Forum members, school principals, parents, teachers and learners and schools across the country, to establish reasons why learners were not performing. I trust that Hon. Limbo attended these meetings. The stakeholders analysed the regional problems and action plans were developed and these will be used in 2016 to mitigate the situation. Lastly, our national and regional annual plans are geared towards improving quality outcome. Our strategies focus on improving learner's access, participation and performance in schools. Our quarterly reviews strive to timeously step in with purposeful interventions and corrective measures.

With specific regard to Zambezi region, the Ministry through the Directorate of Education, Arts and Culture has already trained school principals in instructional leadership. The role of instructional leader is a relatively critical in the realization of effective schools, hence the Ministry has taken the initiative to train school principals.

In addition, the Ministry through the regional Directorate of Education, Arts and Culture in Zambezi region has also introduced new mechanisms whereby teachers' work in the classroom, especially on curriculum would be monitored, and reviews are submitted to the Inspectorate after which

monthly report are compiled. This is done in efforts to ensure that the syllabi are completed on time.

And finally, amongst others, the Directorate of Education, Arts and Culture in Zambezi region has also initiated a teachers' Symposium, with a focus on syllabi interpretation to ensure that all teachers are on par with the syllabi, and better understand on how it should be executed. Syllabi is the central component of teaching and learning in the classroom.

Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members

As announced, the Zambezi region was ranked number 14 in performance. In light of the above, I would like to urge members of this August House to not generalize results of Grade 12 NSSC Ordinary level or at any single level as reflective of the overall performance of the region (at all phases). This explanation does not serve the purpose to overlook the need for efforts to improve or a justification. However, Zambezi region has not been ranked poorly at all phases.

For instance, Zambezi region was ranked number two (2) at Grade 12 NSSC Higher Level phase and Grade 10 the region was ranked at number five (5).

2. Is the Minister aware that since Independence, the government has only constructed one hostel in the Zambezi region that is at Sangwali Senior Secondary School? Can the Hon Minister tell this August house if there are concrete plans in place to construct a new hostel hostels and or renovate existing hostels some of which are in a dilapidated state.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members

While thanking the Hon Member for the question posed as I want to state categorically clear that the limited development budget has been divided and allocated to all regions to get a fair share and run projects to improve teaching and learning. We may have built only one hostel but the region has benefitted in other areas too and we can testify to that.

I must mention Hon Members that there are activities that are currently taking place in the Zambezi region, some of which are:

Extension of curriculum to three schools has taken place
One school called Ingenda JS has been established
Basic construction of classrooms are taking place at the following sites:

3x Masokotwane Combined school

2x Iseke Combined School

2x Singalamwe Combined school
2x Mpukano Combined School
2x Muzii Combined School
Large ablution block at Ikaba Combined School

Currently renovations are going on at:

Linyati Combined School

Ibbu Combined School

In the current MTEF the Ministry of education has the following projects in the Zambezi. Hon can check with the region on the validity of the information I am giving:

Construction of a modern combined school

Construction of a regional education Office

Construction of a Teacher Resource Center

Construction of a Community Learning and Development Center

Construction of the hostel facility at Ngoro memorial combined school

Construction of a hostel facility at Schumansburg Combined School

Construction of Lisikili Combined School

Construction of a Combined School at Salambala

With these projects completing the Zambezi region stands to benefit immensely from all project planning for regions.

3. Learners at Simataa Secondary school are using bushes to answer the call of nature due to toilet facilities that have been blocked for some time now. When can this dire situation be rectified as a matter of urgency.

Honourable speaker Honourable Members

As a ministry we are aware of the critical situation at Simataa secondary school hostel. The problem that is at Simataa is the limited ablution blocks that are there to support the number of learners in the hostel so the current ablution facilities cannot handle the pressure so the hostel gets consistent blockages. We have however tasked the Regional Offices to construct a larger and bigger ablution facility at the hostel. This construction is currently going on at Simataa secondary school hostel and we envisage that this will be completed by end of March 2016.

I thank you

