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**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 29/2021**

**2659. Mr S Tambo (EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

(1)       What has she found to have been the impact of load shedding on the 2021 matric examinations;

(2)       whether there are any measures to assist learners who have reported that they have been disadvantaged by the blackouts; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

**Response**

1.  The writing of Grade 12 examinations is reaching its conclusion and as at 31 November 2021, there are four more days to the end of the writing of the examination. In terms of the writing of the examination, the impact of load shedding has been minimal, as observed during the monitoring process. In subjects like Computer Applications Technology (CAT) and Information Technology (IT), where computers are used, and where learners may have been affected, the DBE, will offer to these candidates an opportunity to rewrite the examination on 7 December 2021. The other subject that required electricity, is South African Sign Language (SASL). But given the very small numbers, these candidates were not adversely affected, as the schools could put in place alternative mechanisms. However, there is still the impact of load shedding on the final preparations for the examination, undertaken by learners during the examination period. This impact, if any, will only be established after the marking has been completed and the results are analysed.

2. In terms of addressing the possible disadvantage that may have been suffered by learners in terms of their final preparations for the examinations, this together with other factors that may have negatively impacted on learner performance, these will be addressed during the standardisation of results. The standardisation of results is a process, undertaken by the Quality Assurance Council, Umalusi, to mitigate, factors other than learners knowledge, ability and aptitude, that may impact on learner performance.