**PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO: 2882**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 7 AUGUST 2015**

**QUESTION PAPER NO**: **28**

**DATE OF REPLY:**

**The Leader of the Opposition (DA) to ask the Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services:**

(1) What targeted interventions has his department (a) already put in place and (b) have planned for the long term to increase access to internet connectivity for citizens in (i) underdeveloped communities and (ii) rural areas in the short to medium term;

(2) does his department have plans in place to subsidise (a) internet connectivity, (b) the roll-out of broadband infrastructure and (c) mobile data providers’ prices in order to ensure increased access to those technologies for citizens in (i) underdeveloped communities and (ii) rural areas?

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**REPLIES:**

(1)(a) Intervention put in place are SA Connect a programme of government to connect 100% of the country to the internet.

(b)(i) Planned interventions are Broadband Infrastructure rollout, E-strategy, internet strategy and USAASA interventions, ICT Policy review

(ii) Broadband rollout to 8 district municipalities including associated digital opportunity programmes.

(2)(a) Yes. Through USAASA, there will be an initiative to subsidise schools, public access points and people in underserved areas.

(b) Yes, in areas where it is not economically viable for operators.

(c)(i-ii) No. The Department does not have plans to subsidise mobile data providers’ prices. The department will pursue policy interventions for the reduction of voice and data costs.