**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 3539**

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**3539. Ms N R Mashabela (EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

Does her department have any collaboration or partnership with the Department of Science and Technology to ensure that underprivileged rural schools have access to the necessary facilities to study science? NW4203E

**Response:**

The Department of Basic Education has a bilateral agreement with the Department of Science and Technology to increase learner participation and success rates in Science and Technology in all rural schools. Currently, the Department of Basic Education, in partnership with the Youth into Science Directorate of the Department of Science and Technology, has finalised building plans for the construction of a Science and Teacher Resource Centre in Cofimvaba, Eastern Cape. This forms part of the Technology for Rural Schools Education Project. The project is at an advanced stage, and aims to provide access to learners from rural and disadvantaged backgrounds to state of the art science and technology facilities.