**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 853**

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**853. Mrs N I Tarabella Marchesi (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

(a) How does the new social workers programme which is tailor-made for social workers who are to work in schools and who have been assigned by her department to universities, differ from the current social workers curriculum provided at universities and (b) what is preventing her department from appointing the current 3 000 unemployed social worker graduates to various schools? NW1973E

**REPLIES**

1. The Department of Basic Education (DBE) participates in the National Committee for School Social Work Education and Practice (NACOSSWEP) which brings together universities, Government Departments and the Council for Social Services Professions (SACSSP) to declare school social work as a specialisation recognised by the SACSSP. In 2019, the Board of Social Work at the SACSSP approved the regulations for specialisation in school social work which is yet to be gazetted by the Minister of Social Development. It is anticipated that social workers will begin to specialise in school social work from 2020 or 2021.
2. The Department continues to optimise services through referrals and close collaboration with the Department of Social Development as the employer of social workers. The DBE currently has no budget to employ social workers.

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**Compiler**:

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**QUESTION 853 APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED**

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**QUESTION 853 APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED**

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MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION

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