

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NOTICE OF QUESTION

BY

Hon. Nico Smit

(Signature: _____)

I give notice that on Thursday the 19th of September 2019

I shall ask the Acting Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, Hon Martin Andjaba, the following:

I am convinced that we all agree that our education system must benefit no one else except the children of Namibia. The first Grade 11 learners will leave school at the end of next year without having attained the traditional Grade 12 qualification that will allow them to pursue their tertiary studies outside the borders of Namibia. They will have studied all their subjects on Ordinary Level. Only those learners who have achieved an average of 60% in four Ordinary Level subjects of their choice in Grade 11 will be entitled to continue to Grade 12 at certain schools. These few learners will then have to suddenly make the leap to Higher Grade for the approximately eight months before they write the Grade 12 exam. It is clear that this new curriculum that was introduced from grade 4 to grade 11 as far back as 2013 has nothing to do with benefitting our children but is meant as a way of saving money for the government. Thousands of our children will be denied the privilege and right to complete grade 12 and will remain disadvantaged.

I thus ask:

1. Can the Hon Acting Minister explain to this August House what research was done and by who before this drastically changed curriculum was introduced into Namibian schools?
2. Can the Hon Acting Minister explain to this August House what advantages will accrue to our children by the introduction of this curriculum that will prevent disadvantaged learners who are attending the many poor quality schools throughout Namibia from completing grade 12, thus giving them access to tertiary studies outside Namibia?
3. Can the Hon Acting Minister explain what is to become of the possibly thousands of learners who fail to pass grade 11 at the end of 2020 without enough points to proceed to tertiary studies at Namibian tertiary institutions?
4. How much more will it cost the Namibian taxpayers to provide two school-leaving exams at the end of every year after 2020, namely for grade 11 as well as for those learners who are lucky enough to qualify for grade 12?
5. Is the introduction of this new curriculum the government's attempt to force Namibian learners to attend local tertiary institutions?
6. What plans have been put in place to support those grade 11 learners who find that they are too immature to cope with tertiary studies at such a young age?
7. Can the Hon Acting Minister explain to this August House what arrangements have been put in place for the safe hostel accommodation of grade 10 learners who are now forced to attend schools that now must offer grade 10 and 11 as a single unit, where in the past many schools, particularly in the north of Namibia, only offered classes from grade 8 to 10 while Grade 11 and 12 were offered at a very few separate schools?

8. Is it true that the Ministry of Education is supporting a policy to move away from providing hostel accommodation for learners?

9. If yes, what plan has been put in place to accommodate rural learners who live far away from primary and secondary schools that offer the education that is their constitutional right?

I so move