

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**QUESTION No.97- 2013****FOR ORAL REPLY**

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“Mrs H S Msweli (IFP) to ask the Minister of Arts and Culture”

1. How many youths have benefited from the Arts, Social Development and Youth Programme;
2. how far has his department gone in ensuring that all government departments have (a) established language units, (b) finalised language policies and (c) conducted language awareness campaigns? **NO471E**

REPLY

1. Arts, Social Development and Youth Programme in the current financial year has benefited 13 664 in all provinces. All in all 10 projects in which youth participated and benefited were held in all provinces.
2. (a). The establishment of language units in government departments is the sole responsibility of individual departments according to the Cabinet decision of 2007. The role of the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) is to guide and advise them on how to do that. As such, the department is in constant consultation with those that need the assistance according to their state of readiness.

(b) However, the DAC is responsible for policy and legislation and as such, the language legislation has been finalized and assented to by the President on 2 October 2012 and thus published in the Government Gazette on the same date. This legislation is going to enjoin all national government departments, entities and enterprises to establish language units as it will enforce implementation of the National Language Policy Framework and the advancement of multilingualism. To further assist, the DAC runs a bursary programme training language practitioners to populate language units as needed. This programme has been running since 2004.

(c) In 2010 the DAC launched a national language campaign to be rolled out in the Provinces. Each province is expected to run a language campaign. On account of budgetary constraints however, not much has been reported on this area. Focus has been on language development through translation and editing, terminology development, human language technology applications and the development of literature. Different units achieve results based on available budgets in any given time.