

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**FOR WRITTEN REPLY****QUESTION NO 1115**

“1155. Dr JC Klopper-Lourens (DA) to ask the Minister of Science and Technology:

(a)(i) How many of the 60 additional Research Chairs were awarded to the field of human and social sciences to expand the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) and (ii) how many of the current research chairs are currently focused on human and social sciences and (b) how are these allocations (i) justified and (ii) compared in relation to those awarded to physical sciences?

NW1346E

REPLY

- (a) (i) Following the two-phase approach for awarding of Research Chairs, the Department recently awarded 60 additional Research Chairs to universities to expand the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI). Of the 60 additional Research Chairs, 18 (30%) were awarded in the fields of human and social sciences.
- (ii) Of the 92 current Research Chairs, 29 (31%) are in the fields of human and social sciences.
- (b) (i) The areas in which Research Chairs are awarded are informed by a two-pronged approach, that is, the existing capacities within the Universities, and the priorities of government as articulated in government strategies such as the National Research and Development Strategy (NRDS), Ten Year Innovation Plan, National Climate Change Response Strategy, National Crime Prevention Strategy, the New Growth Path etc.

- (ii) The human and social sciences Research Chairs constitute 31% of the total awarded Research Chairs thus far.