

# DA to question tablet contract in parliament

EduSolutions, the company responsible for the 2012 Limpopo textbook crisis and reported to have close ties to President Jacob Zuma, has been awarded a contract to deliver tablet and laptop computers, and e-learning materials to schools in Gauteng at a cost of R200-million...



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Given EduSolutions' questionable history, this should "[sound] loud alarm bells", the DA MP and spokesman on basic education Desiree van der Walt, said.

"The DA would therefore ask in parliament what penalties would be invoked in the event that EduSolutions failed to deliver on time.

"In 2012, under Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga, the department failed to deliver thousands of textbooks to schools in Limpopo, which directly encroached on the rights to basic education of thousands of children in the province," said Van der Walt.

"This incident and subsequent investigations found that there were vast disparities in textbook delivery between provinces and the department was taken to court to force [it] to deliver the desperately needed textbooks.

"EduSolutions also has close ties with President Zuma and the ANC. Serious questions were raised in 2012 about these links and seem to point to the company's political connections having a big influence on it receiving a number of state contracts.

"It was reported that African Access Holdings, the holding company of EduSolutions, was a key donor to President Zuma's RDP Education Trust and that EduSolutions founder, Shaun Battlemann, had links to President Zuma through this education trust.

"The DA believes that every child must be given the best opportunity to succeed in life. The use of technology in schools will enhance opportunities for our young people and play an important role in getting our children ready for the working world.

"The department has a responsibility to ensure that the contracts to supply this technology are fulfilled, especially considering that the company which won the contract has a history of non-delivery and political links to the ANC," she said.  
- RDM Newswire

*Source: The Times*

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