

# Committee set up to analyse diversity in textbooks

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SOUTH African school textbooks are due for an upgrade after Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga set up a committee to look into diversity issues in the books.

Last week, Motshekga gazetted the appointment of eight people to serve on the ministerial committee set up to

evaluate textbooks and learning and teaching support material, and develop a policy that promotes diversity.

According to the Government Gazette, the committee will have a year to evaluate textbooks and learning and teaching support material for all schooling phases, and recommend how to eradicate discrimination in the material.

The committee will review English, maths, social sciences and life orientation textbooks. It is tasked with ascertaining whether the texts and illustrations used are inclusive and sensitive to diversity and whether they promote the values of equality and the empowerment of pupils, or whether they exclude or cause offence to certain groups.

The committee is chaired by University of Cape Town deputy vice-chancellor Professor Crain Soudien and includes Professor Linda Chisholm of the University of Johannesburg, Professor Sechaba Mahlomaholo of the University of the Free State, Dr Thabo Msibi of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and Professor Lebo Moletsane, also of UKZN.