

Opgelees 16/7/69, my uitseending
dieselfde woord, mens oor 9. — H.B.Th.

*Uits
radiogebied*

In South Africa - as in other countries - the fact has today, more than ever before, been clearly realised that education is one of the most important areas of our national life. During the recent session of Parliament, when a good deal of attention was devoted to educational matters, this fact was also stressed.

A significant result of the parliamentary session in this regard, was the passing of the National Education Policy Amendment Act, i.e. Act No. 73, 1969. In accordance with this act the new National Education Council has been established, which will assume its functions on the 1st of August of this year.

Like its immediate predecessor this Council will advise the Minister of National Education in the field of educational policy, including the matter of teacher training. In broad outline ~~this~~ ^{the} Council has to deal firstly with education as such, and secondly with the training of teachers for our schools. I am pleased and grateful to know that, together with specialists in philosophy and theory of education, men have also been appointed to the Council who are practical educationists and who are in daily contact with educational practice in the classroom.

We know that we can build with confidence on the foundations already laid by our predecessors during the last few years. We shall not proceed hurriedly, because we realise only too well that education in South Africa, owing mainly to its historical background, has developed a host of peculiar complexities and intricate problems. However, the National Education Council will do everything in its power to carry on with the newest developments, and ~~also~~ ^{it will} in the process try to establish a truly national educational system and educational pattern, which will do justice to our youth, which will enhance the status of a key profession, and which will serve the spiritual interests of our country in a permanent way. This is, after all, the ideal which our legislators had in mind with the recent - and also with the earlier - legislation.

We know that it will take time to achieve this ideal, but, while thanking our predecessors for the work they have already done, we trust that we shall be able to progress further on the way to this ideal.