



**MINISTRY  
EMPLOYMENT & LABOUR  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER:1163 [CW1307E]**

**Umjindi/Barberton Labour Activation Programme**

**1163. Ms H S Boshoff (Mpumalanga: DA) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:**

- (1) Whether, with reference to the officially contracted stipend amount for each learner for each month for the Umjindi/Barberton Labour Activation Programme which was allegedly reduced from R3000 to R2000, (a) her department and/or (b) the Unemployment Insurance Fund has conducted any site inspections in Umjindi/Barberton since the project began in April 2025; if not, (i) why not and (ii) when will inspection be conducted; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether she will provide copies of inspection reports; if not, why not; if so, when;
- (3) whether her department will institute any penalties or consequence management actions against a certain company (details furnished) for non-performance if it is found guilty; if so, what are the details of such actions;
- (4) whether her department will conduct an investigation to determine if any portions of the funds that have been allocated for stipends been redirected for other purposes; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (5) whether she will refer the matter to law enforcement for investigation into possible fraud or corruption; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?  
CW1307E

**Reply:**

Regarding the Umjindi/Barberton Labour Activation Programme, we refer to the response to Parliamentary Question 1113 on the same matter.

After officials close to the project verified the information on the ground, and as stated in that response:

No stipend reduction was made. The contracted amount for the stipend was and remains R2,000 per learner, per month. The allegation that the stipend was ever R3,000 is incorrect.

The alleged reduction was not approved because no reduction took place. The agreed-upon amount is clearly stipulated in the funding and learner contracts.

The allegation of only two half-day sessions is inaccurate. The official attendance registers, provided as an annexure in the response, confirm that the full 12-day theoretical training duration was delivered as planned.

At this stage, the stipend amount was consistently paid at the agreed-upon rate of R2,000 per month, as outlined in the provided documents.

The available evidence, as provided in the response to Parliamentary Question 1113, shows that the stipend was never reduced, the training was delivered as per the agreement, and there was no deviation from the contract.

The department maintains a strong stance on holding service providers accountable for contractual obligations, and any substantiated claims of non-performance or fraud would be met with appropriate action, as confirmed in the previous response.