

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 1552

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 15)

Ms M E Sukers (ACDP) to ask the Minister of Health:

- (1) Whether the Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS) is intended for any use other than a means of facilitating the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in the Republic; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether the EVDS was entirely developed within and for exclusive use in the Republic; if not, (a) where did it originate and (b) who (i) developed it and (ii) funded its development; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether the data provided in terms of the EVDS will be deleted once the COVID-19 pandemic has passed; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether vaccinations and registering on the EVDS will remain completely voluntary; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) The EVDS has been scoped and developed to record the vaccination programme matrix of events. The design approach of the EVDS allow for adaptation to support for future vaccination or other public health prevention strategies. EVDS can be repurposed for routine immunisation for example, Polio, Tuberculosis, Haemophilus Influenza, hepatitis B, Pneumococcal conjugate, Measles, and Human papillomavirus vaccines.
- (2) The EVDS has been developed within South Africa for the exclusive use within the Republic. The scope and business requirements are developed by the National Department of Health according to the vaccination programme policy decisions. The National Department is the owner of the source code. Therefore the adjustments and changes to the system are within the control of the National Department of Health. The system is hosted in the NHI Data Center which is off site of the premises of the National Department of Health. All servers and security protocols belong to the National Departments of Health. The NHI Data Centre conforms to international best practices and security protocols.
- (3) The EVDS creates an Electronic Health Vaccination Record for each individual that is vaccinated. This record remains the authoritative source for the verification of vaccination status of an individual. This record is treated the same way as patient file and will be kept for a minimum of 6 years as per the NDoH policy on the storage on Patient Records.
- (4) The policy is that COVID 19 Vaccination is a choice and opting therefore registering for vaccination is voluntary.

END.