

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION PAPER

Note:

1. ★ Indicates an oral question.

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

WEDNESDAY, 28 MAY 2025

CLUSTER 2: SOCIAL SERVICES

★642. Ms M P Kobe (ActionSA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

What (a) were the original and (b) are the revised completion dates and budgets for Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project? NO3260E

★612. Ms M L Mmolotsane (ANC) to ask the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture:

What strategies has his department implemented to counter the resurgence of ethno-linguistic narrow nationalism, which is rooted in the apartheid separationist ideology and contradicts the democratic project of the Republic of unity in diversity, multilingualism and social cohesion? NO3228E

★582. Mrs M O Clarke (DA) to ask the Minister of Health:

What are the total expenses incurred to date regarding litigation involving the National Health Insurance Act, Act 20 of 2023, including the estimated financial liability for any adverse cost order?

NO3198E

★577. Ms Z S Abader (MK) to ask the Minister of Human Settlements:

(1) How does she justify the continued existence of blocked and/or incomplete housing projects throughout the Republic, some dating back over a decade, while millions of persons remain homeless and whilst billions of rands in her department remain unspent and/or misused annually;

(2) whether she has taken any immediate disciplinary and/or legal actions against officials and contractors responsible for substandard Reconstruction and Development Project houses and fraudulent beneficiary allocations; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO3193E

★613. Mr K S Ramaila (ANC) to ask the Minister of Social Development:

Given the intervention to extend the operationalisation of the SA Social Security Agency gold card beyond 31 May 2025 to enable beneficiaries to access their social grants, what (a) is the current replacement rate and (b) is the acceleration strategy to transition all beneficiaries to the Postbank black cards?

NO3230E

★650. Ms P R Mailola (EFF) to ask the Minister of Health:

Whether, in light of the confirmed passing of the medical intern, Dr Alulutho Mazwi, while on duty at the Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital and the reported deaths of three other healthcare professionals at separate KwaZulu-Natal facilities in the recent days, he has instituted an investigation into the deaths, in view of the Public Servants Association's allegations of inhumane working conditions, autocratic leadership and abuse of power at the facility; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what immediate steps has his department taken to address the specified concerns and (b) on what date will the findings of the investigation into the deaths of Dr Alulutho Mazwi and frontline health workers be released?

NO3269E

★605. Mr N M Hadebe (IFP) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

(1) How are climate-resilient infrastructure, technological innovation and inclusive community engagement, which are pillars of the water strategy of the Republic, integrated into a unified implementation framework, particularly in terms of coordination between national, provincial and local governments, as well as cross-border institutions like Orange-Senqu River Commission to ensure coherent and effective delivery of water and climate-adaptation goals;

(2) what concrete mechanisms are in place to ensure that smaller, often under-resourced communities, particularly in rural and/or cross-border areas, are not left behind in the large-scale water infrastructure projects and reforms, given the urgency of climate adaptation and the scale of investment required?

NO3221E

★614. Ms Y Govana (ANC) to ask the Minister of Higher Education:

What (a) steps has her department taken to rectify the administrative classification of students who qualify for the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, but are incorrectly classified as missing not eligible and (b) is the efficient appeal process for the affected students?

NO3231E

★660. Mr M A Maimane (BOSA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

Whether, considering that it has been almost a year since her comment in July 2024 when she said that her department would establish a consultative forum consisting of education sector representatives, trade unions, school governing bodies and others to undertake a fundamental review of the school curriculum, including reforming the 30% pass mark, she has established the specified consultative forum; if not, by what date does she envisage the forum will be established; if so, what are the terms of reference of the forum?

NO3280E

★581. Dr D C Christians (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

In light of recent reports that the Northern Cape Department of Education owes more than R181 million, including more than R54 million to service providers for textbooks and stationery, as well as debts to educators who were appointed by school governing bodies, hostel suppliers, transport providers and municipalities, what urgent steps has the national Department of Basic Education taken to ensure that learners in the specified province are not denied access to learning and teaching support materials due to provincial financial mismanagement and delayed payments?

NO3197E

★615. Ms P P Xaba-Ntshaba (ANC) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

Considering the commitment of her department to implement the Basic Education Laws Amendment Act, Act 32 of 2024, as a transformative instrument towards equitable access to education for all, how will her department monitor and ensure compliance with the new language and admission reforms in the former model C and Afrikaans medium schools, that have historically and systematically excluded Black learners?

NO3232E

★573. Mr M P Msezane (MK) to ask the Minister of Higher Education:

Given the many vacancies in technical vocational education and training colleges, particularly at executive level, what (a) total number of institutions have acting executives that are awaiting appointments from her department and (b) impact does this have on the fundamental functions of the specified institutions, which is teaching, learning and management?

NO3188E

★657. Mr S Lonzi (EFF) to ask the Minister of Higher Education:

Whether, notwithstanding her withdrawal of the appointments of the chairpersons to the Sector Education and Training Authorities and restart the process afresh, she has found it appropriate and procedurally correct for politically exposed persons such as a certain person (name and details furnished) to be appointed as board chairpersons; if not, what steps is she going to take to prevent such appointments; if so, (a) how does the specified appointment align with principles of merit-based selection and the avoidance of potential conflicts of interest in public sector governance and (b) on what legislative provisions would she rely in making such appointments? NO3276E

★616. Mr M Dlelanga (ANC) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

With regard to the launch of Phase 2 of Operation Vulindlela and the announcement by the President, Mr M C Ramaphosa, that Government will support public-private partnerships in water infrastructure to reduce water leaks, expand access new water sources and improve wastewater treatment, how will her department ensure that there is a balance between the profit motives of private entities and the imperative of maintaining water as an accessible public good? NO3233E

★594. Ms A L A Abrahams (DA) to ask the Minister of Social Development:

Whether, as a mechanism to root out fraud and corruption at the SA Social Security Agency (SASSA), lifestyle audits, together with an audit of remuneration outside of work, have been completed with all SASSA employees; if not, (a) why not and (b) by what date will the audits be initiated; if so, what are the full details of the specified audits? NO3210E

★617. Ms T E Magagula (ANC) to ask the Minister of Human Settlements:

In light of the fact that 128 families in the Hillside Phase 3 project in KwaMaqoma, formerly known as Fort Beaufort, and 7 families in Vukani Location in Makhanda, formerly known as Grahamstown, in the Eastern Cape were allocated poorly constructed Reconstruction and Development Programme homes and have been waiting for the refurbishment of their homes through her department's rectification programme, what steps has her department taken and/or will undertake to ensure that the affected families' homes are refurbished to the required standards? NO3234E

★604. Mr S M Gana (Rise Mzansi) to ask the Minister of Higher Education:

- (1) What is the plan of her department to ensure that the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) meets all of its payment demands on time, given the reports of delays by NSFAS in paying for student accommodation;
- (2) how will her department ensure that all eligible students have access to adequate student accommodation? NO3220E

★618. Ms M P Makgato (ANC) to ask the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture:

Whether his department has engaged with the Department of Basic Education to ensure that arts and culture programmes in schools are structured to prepare learners to meaningfully participate in the digital creative economy; if not, why not; if so, what are the full details of the (a) engagements and (b) results thereof? NO3235E

★583. Dr K W D P le Roux (DA) to ask the Minister of Health:

Whether his department has applied for any emergency funding from the National Treasury in the wake of the United States (US) administration withdrawing funding from the (US) President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief that is paid through the US Agency for International Development; if not, why not; if so, (a) what total amount in funding was applied for and (b) how does his department intend to disburse emergency funds acquired from the National Treasury to ensure that affected nongovernmental organisations are supported?

NO3199E

★576. Mr T S Mjadu (MK) to ask the Minister of Health:

Considering that many skilled healthcare workers are leaving the Thembisa Hospital due to the dire situation of dilapidated infrastructure and extreme shortage in essential resources, and noting that since the beginning of 2025 a total of 225 staff members (details furnished) have resigned, what (a) tangible measures has he and/or his department implemented in order to address the urgent crisis of the collapsing infrastructure and (b) steps has he taken to prevent the high resignation rates?

NO3192E

★619. Mr T B Munyai (ANC) to ask the Minister of Social Development:

(a) What is the implementation strategy of the 90-day gender-based violence and femicide acceleration programme and (b) how are her department's resources allocated to meet the programmes demands?

NO3236E

★645. Mr E Mthethwa (EFF) to ask the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture:

In light of his continued public advocacy of prioritising the employment of South African citizens over foreign nationals in roles that do not require scarce skills, what is his position regarding the recurring employment of American and European artists, who are regularly booked to perform in the Republic while many local artists remain unemployed and die in poverty?

NO3264E

★608. Mr K P Sithole (IFP) to ask the Minister of Human Settlements:

- (1) How is her department integrating climate-resilient design and infrastructure into human settlement projects to protect vulnerable communities, especially in informal settlements and coastal areas, as climate change has increased the frequency of floods and extreme weather conditions;
- (2) what immediate steps has her department taken to accelerate the delivery of subsidised housing units as there is a critical shortage of affordable housing, particularly for low-income families?

NO3224E

★620. Mr A M Seabi (ANC) to ask the Minister of Human Settlements:

- (1) Whether, given the enactment of the Expropriation Act, Act 13 of 2024, and noting that section 9(3)(a) of the Housing Act, Act 107 of 1997, allows for the expropriation of land for housing purposes, her department has received any requests from local municipalities to expropriate land; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;

- (2) whether her department has regulations in place to implement the two specified pieces of legislation, which serve as mechanisms to address land shortages for building new human settlements, particularly in the eight metropolitan municipalities; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NO3237E

★661. Mrs N L Hlazo-Webster (BOSA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

(a) By what date does her department expect the vetting of all educators against the National Register for Sex Offenders to be completed and (b) what concrete mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that there is a sustainable, continuous and up-to-date vetting system to prevent any recurrence of such a backlog, once the existing backlog has been cleared? NO3281E

★598. Mr L C Jacobs (DA) to ask the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture:

In light of the recent commitment of his department to initiate an investigation into alleged corruption at Boxing South Africa despite committing to do so in 2024, what are the reasons for the delay? NO3214E

★621. Mr K S Ramaila (ANC) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

What (a) is the projected cost to her department of the compulsory national water and sanitation norms and standards that will prohibit the use of the bucket system in all settlements in the Republic to ensure improved service delivery and (b) are the relevant details of new sanitation technologies that require low capital and operating expenses that her department has considered? NO3238E

★569. Mr M P Motubatse (MK) to ask the Minister of Social Development:

What (a) specific measures has her department implemented to protect children who have been sent by their parents to collect money at intersections, thereby exposing them to potential dangers, including abduction and human trafficking and (b) steps will she take to hold those parents and/or guardians who violate the rights of such children accountable? NO3184E

**QUESTIONS TRANSFERRED FROM WRITTEN TO ORAL REPLY IN
ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 146(1)**

★668. Ms L M Ngobeni (ActionSA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education [Written question 12]:

Whether she will furnish Ms L M Ngobeni with a comprehensive list of all costs associated with a (a) certain person (name and details furnished), as well as each (b) deputy director-general and (c) chief director of her department, for international and domestic travel broken down by each year since 1 January 2015, detailing the (i) purpose and justification for each trip, (ii) destination details, (iii) costs incurred, including but not limited to transport, accommodation, meals and other related incidental expenses, (iv) names and roles of all accompanying support staff and their respective costs and (v) additional costs associated with each specified trip; if not, why not, in each case; if so, what are the relevant details in each specified case? NO20E

★670. Mr A D Beesley (ActionSA) to ask the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture [Written question 23]:

What is the complete breakdown of all official travel for (a) him and (b) the Deputy Minister since they assumed office on 3 July 2024, including the (i) purpose and justification for each trip, (ii) destination details, (iii) costs incurred, including but not limited to transport, accommodation, meals and other related incidental expenses, (iv) names and roles of all accompanying support staff and their respective costs and (v) additional costs associated with each specified trip? NO31E

★672. Ms L M Ngobeni (ActionSA) to ask the Minister of Higher Education [Written question 1034]:

- (1) What are the full details of the (a) selection process for the new National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) Board members, (b) criteria that were used in the selection process and (c)(i) specific qualifications and professional experiences that each of the appointed board members possess and (ii) how do these align with the strategic objectives and challenges currently faced by NSFAS;
- (2) whether public interviews were conducted to ensure transparency; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) given the challenges experienced by NSFAS, (a) how does the new Board plan to address and implement the recommendations from previous investigations and reports, such as those conducted by Werksmans Attorneys, to rectify the ongoing challenges within NSFAS and (b) what specific measures will the new Board implement to combat corruption and maladministration within NSFAS, ensuring that funds are utilised effectively for student support;
- (4) how does the new Board intend to improve communication and engagement with students and educational institutions to address issues promptly and effectively;
- (5) what frameworks and/or systems will be established to monitor and evaluate the performance of the new Board and NSFAS as a whole, ensuring continuous improvement and accountability? NO1140E