

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION PAPER

Note:

1. ★ Indicates an oral question.

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

WEDNESDAY, 20 MARCH 2024

CLUSTER 4: ECONOMICS

★193. Mr K J Mileham (DA) to ask the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy:

What is the levelised cost of energy per kilowatt hour of the proposed nuclear New Build Programme of the government, given that a nuclear procurement process is imminent? NO757E

★201. Mr M Manyi (EFF) to ask the Minister of Finance:

What (a) immediate steps are being taken by the National Treasury to address the impasse between Ithala Bank and the Prudential Authority and (b) long-term strategies are being considered to position Ithala Bank for sustainable growth and competitiveness within the banking sector, given the current challenges it is facing? NO765E

★172. Mr M R Mdakane (ANC) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

As we gear up for elections, what measures have been put in place by the public broadcaster, the SA Broadcasting Corporation, to ensure that there is equitable treatment of political parties as well as individuals contesting provincial and national elections, to ensure that the process is free and fair?

NO734E

★170. Mr M G E Hendricks (Al Jama-ah) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

Whether his department has a plan to roll out free data to QwaQwa; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what (a) progress has been made regarding the roll-out and (b) is the time frame for providing fully-fledged free data?

NO585E

★173. Mr S M Dlamini (ANC) to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:

What measures has she put in place to improve the accountability of the Ingonyama Trust, especially in relation to matters which relate to the disbursement of funds, land administration and general governance and financial control-related issues?

NO735E

★174. Mr M J Wolmarans (ANC) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

What are the relevant details of the Labour Activation Programme of his department, which spent an estimated R15 billion on the creation of jobs across the Republic?

NO736E

★197. Ms S J Graham (DA) to ask the Minister in The Presidency for Electricity:

Whether, with reference to the statement issued by Eskom on 2 March 2024, where it was confirmed that the Generation Operational Recovery Plan had been successful in arresting the decline of the energy availability factor (EAF), he has found that the utility is on track to achieve an EAF of (a) 65% from the current EAF by 31 March 2024 and (b) 70% by March 2025; if not, in each case, why not; if so, what are the details of how the respective EAFs will be achieved in each case?

NO761E

★202. Mr M Manyi (EFF) to ask the Minister in The Presidency for Electricity:

(a) What are the full details of the causes of the recent high frequency of load shedding, despite efforts towards integrating renewable energy sources into Eskom's grid and (b) how does he explain the persistent challenges facing Eskom in maintaining stable electricity supply, despite his numerous visits to Eskom plants and initiatives to address the issues?

NO766E

★175. Ms J C N Mkhwanazi (ANC) to ask the Minister in The Presidency for Electricity:

- (1) Since Cabinet has authorised him to proceed with the establishment of the Independent Transmission Projects model to bridge the finance gap in the transmission network by bringing in the private sector players to develop, build, finance and operate a single transmission network asset under a tendered contract, what are the practical steps that his Office needs to take to implement the specified model;
- (2) whether private sector players may rely on the amendment of the Electricity Regulation Act, Act 4 of 2006, to operate transmission networks alongside the National Transmission Company of South Africa; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NO737E

★186. Mr N Singh (IFP) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Given the pivotal role Ithala Bank has played in assisting thousands of small businesses and individuals and in light of the Government's ongoing discourse on the importance and potential expansion of state-owned banks, (a) what specific interventions and/or measures is the National Treasury considering to strengthen Ithala Bank's operational capabilities and financial sustainability and (b) how does the National Treasury plan to ensure that Ithala Bank not only continues performing its critical functions but also thrives in its mission to support economic development and inclusivity within our financial system? NO748E

★176. Mr G P Masualle (ANC) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Considering that the National Treasury has emphasised that structural reforms are expected to accelerate growth and reduce binding constraints to growth, over and above improving efficiencies in network industries, (a) in which productive sectors of the economy does the National Treasury envisage that growth will occur and (b) how will the National Treasury intensify support for the specified sectors? NO738E

★188. Dr D T George (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

- (1) Whether, with reference to the National Treasury's indication in its document titled *Learn About the National Health Insurance (NHI)* that a small tax may be introduced to augment the money allocated through the public budget, the National Treasury has costed the proposed NHI; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details of the total estimated cost of implementing the proposed NHI;
- (2) whether he intends to increase tax to fund the proposed NHI; if not, how will the proposed NHI be funded; if so, what are the relevant details? NO752E

★177. Mr M G Mahlaule (ANC) to ask the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy:

Bearing in mind that the average debt collection period of the portfolio of his department was high in the 2019-2024 financial years, resulting in debt impairment, (a) how will his department address the current high average debt collection period and (b) what control measures will his department put in place to monitor debt collection on a quarterly basis as recommended by the Auditor-General of South Africa? NO739E

★178. Mr M E Dlamini (ANC) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

What efforts have been made by her department to transform the wildlife industry sector to ensure that all South Africans are able to benefit from our endowment of wildlife and biodiversity as the sector has historically excluded previously disadvantaged individuals?

NO740E

★187. Ms A M M Weber (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

What are the full details of the (a) current status of the disciplinary process initiated more than two years ago against the Risk Manager of the Kruger National Park for allegedly causing grievous bodily harm to a female colleague who worked at the Shelati Hotel and (b) steps she has taken to ensure that the disciplinary process against the specified person is expeditiously concluded, given that his suspension with full pay and the employment of an acting Risk Manager has already cost her department more than R 14 million by 31 December 2023?

NO751E

★203. Ms M S Letlape (EFF) to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:

Whether the latest land audit reveals any significant changes in the demographics of landholding in the Republic; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the new patterns?

NO767E

★180. Ms N J Kubheka (ANC) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

What (a) measures has the business rescue for the SA Post Office SOC Ltd put in place to ensure that the Post Office of Tomorrow strategy is implemented and (b) are the linkages between the two?

NO742E

★171. Mr M G E Hendricks (Al Jama-ah) to ask the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy:

Whether, considering that his department has opened the doors wide for mining licences, although black persons continue to be sidelined from the mining sector empowerment with unnecessary stringent zoning obstacles, especially in the Western Cape, he will take steps to trump the obstacles faced by black miners in the Western Cape; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO733E

★181. Mr K E Magaxa (ANC) to ask the Minister in The Presidency for Electricity:

(1) In view of the fact that private companies and households have reportedly installed over 2,400 MW of small-scale embedded generation in the form of rooftop solar system in the past year, what has been the direct impact of the specified installations on the reduction of load shedding stages and Eskom's financial performance;

- (2) whether the recent decline in load shedding stages is due to Eskom's improved generation performance attributed to aggressive planned maintenance and/or lower demand linked to the high levels of rooftop solar system installations; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO743E

★182. Ms M L Dunjwa (ANC) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

What future plans has his department put in place to ensure that the Republic seamlessly adapts to a labour environment of ongoing automation and digitisation, with a view of insulating the workforce and safeguarding its relevance in the ever-changing world of technology?

NO744E

★190. Mr J R B Lorimer (DA) to ask the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy:

What has he found to be the reasons that contributed to the average decline in real mining output by 0.4% each year since 1994?

NO754E

★204. Ms M S Letlape (EFF) to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:

- (1) Since 1 December 1998, what are the full details of the progress that has been made to settle land claims;

- (2) whether she has found that it is possible to settle the remaining claims within the current budgetary limits, considering that the 7th report of the Land Access Movement of South Africa to the Land Claims Court indicated that her department would need over R30 billion to settle over 6000 remaining land claims; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO768E

★183. Mr T T Gumbu (ANC) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

- (a) By what date will the second phase of spectrum auctioning be held and (b) which policy will be implemented in the place of the Wireless Open Access Network to ensure the inclusion of smaller telecommunication companies in the bidding process?

NO745E

★184. Mr Z M D Mandela (ANC) to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:

Whether she and/or her department has a plan in place for resource mobilisation with a key focus on the development of (a) conservation agriculture and agroecology and (b) indigenous knowledge systems to counter the challenges that come with the effect of climate change on agriculture; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO746E

★194. Mr M Bagraim (DA) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

With reference to the proposed unbundling of the Unemployment Insurance Fund and the Compensation Fund from his department and the establishment of each as a Schedule 3A national public entity, what steps will his department take to ensure that the billions of Rands invested by the specified Funds in the Public Investment Corporation will remain (a) secure and (b) subject to oversight by the National Assembly?

NO758E

★185. Ms S G N Mbatha (ANC) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

What programmes and/or strategies has her department put in place to assist local governments with the waste management challenges that many local municipalities face as the specified municipalities are unable to perform their waste management functions due to lack of skills and capacity?

NO747E

★206. Ms C N Mkhonto (EFF) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

What are the reasons that the Labour Activation Plan excludes the Supported Employment Enterprises (SEE) and its beneficiaries, namely people living with disabilities?

NO770E