

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

QUESTION PAPER

NOTE:

1. Indicates translated version of the question.
2. ★ Indicates a question for oral reply.
3. **In terms of Rule 246(4), no more than six questions for oral reply may be put to a Minister in respect of any one Government department on any particular day. Questions in excess of this quota are summarised at the end of the Question Paper.**

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ECONOMICS

Cluster 4D

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY**THURSDAY, 18 MARCH 2021***Causes of high unemployment rate in the country***★62. Mr M I Rayi (Eastern Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:**

With reference to the results of the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey: Quarter 2, 2020 that were released by Statistics SA (details furnished), (a) what are the causes of the massive job losses in a country that is already plagued by a high unemployment rate and (b) what actions is the government taking to turn things around? CO189E

*Continued disbursements of TERS funds***★54. Ms H S Boshoff (Mpumalanga: DA) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:**

- (1) Why he changed his views regarding his department's ability to continue with the disbursements of the Covid-19 Temporary Employer/Employee Relief Scheme funds following a report from his actuaries (details furnished);
- (2) whether he will share such a report with the National Council of Provinces in order for members to have a better understanding of the situation; if not, why not; if so, (a) when and (b) what are the further relevant details? CO180E

*Plans to integrate graduates into economy***★63. Mr K M Mmoiemang (Northern Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:**

Whether the Government has any plans to address the challenge of an economy that struggles to integrate graduates (details furnished); if not, why not; if so, (a) what plans and (b) what are the further relevant details? CO190E

*Silence on high unemployment rate***★56. Ms H S Boshoff (Mpumalanga: DA) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:**

- (a) Why he or his department has been silent on the steps to be taken to address the unemployment situation in the country following the 4th Quarter report of 2020 of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey which revealed an alarming high rate of unemployment of 42,6% on the expanded definition of unemployment and (b) what plans his department has devised to ensure that no more jobs are lost? CO183E

Process of recouping money

★64. Mr E R Landsman (North West: ANC) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

With reference to his department's announcement in 2020 that it was already in the process of recouping money that was fraudulently paid from the Covid-19 Temporary Employer/Employee Relief Scheme as investigations were continuing, (a) how much money has been recouped thus far and (b) how many such cases have been forwarded to law enforcement for (i) criminal and (ii) other charges to be activated? CO191E

New national minimum wage

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

Whether pressure from the labour unions was the reason he so easily agreed to gazette recently the new national minimum wage which will be implemented from 1 March 2021 (details furnished); if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? CO181E

Stimulating economic growth

★65. Ms D G Mahlangu (Mpumalanga: ANC) to ask the Minister of Finance:

What actions is the Government taking to (a) reverse the lack of growth despite increased government spending (details furnished) and (b) ensure that expenditure from the fiscus contributes positively towards stimulating growth in the economy? CO192E

Possible negative effects of rating agency downgrades

★59. Mr W A S Aucamp (Northern Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

- (1) With reference to the statement he reiterated again this year, that we cannot afford to make any financial mistakes (details furnished), what will be the effects from any possible further downgrades by rating agencies to the country's economy;
- (2) whether any of such possible negative effects have been factored into the drafting of the current Budget; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO186E

Projected economic rebound of SA

★66. Mr E Z Njadu (Western Cape State: ANC) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Why is the South African economy not projected to rebound as strongly as those of other developing countries such as China, India and some in the Southern African Development Community region (details furnished)? CO193E

*Improving tax situation in the country***★53. Mr S F Du Toit (North West: FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Finance:**

- (1) Whether there has been any decrease in the number of taxpayers in the top three tax brackets in the 2019/20 tax year; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) how much did the taxpayers in the said tax brackets contribute to the total government revenue and (b) what are the further relevant details;
- (2) whether the National Treasury will implement any measures to make the country's economic and socio-economic arena more attractive and stable; if not, why not; if so, (a) what measures and (b) what are the further relevant details
- (3) whether any measures are in place to (a) prevent and (b) discourage taxpayers from leaving the country; if not, why not; if so, (i) what measures and (ii) what are the further relevant details? CO179E

*Increased allocation to Treasury***★57. Mr D R Ryder (Gauteng: DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:**

- (1) Why the big increase in this year's Budget allocation to the Treasury compared to almost all other departments, which have had decreases (details furnished);
- (2) whether such an increase marks a move towards the centralisation of power and increased oversight and control by the Treasury over spending and procurement; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? CO184E

*Addressing poverty/hunger/destitution/unemployment crises***★67. Mr Z Mkiva (Eastern Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Finance:**

What (a) measures is the Government planning to implement to address the extreme levels of poverty, hunger and destitution in the country (details furnished) and (b) further measures have been put in place to address the unemployment crisis, apart from the President's job stimulus packages which are effectively temporary public works programmes? CO194E

Questions for oral reply transferred for written reply in terms of Rule 246(4):

- ★48. Mr A Arnolds (Western Cape: EFF)—Finance.**
- ★49. Mr M S Moletsane (Free State: EFF)—Finance. (*Interdepartmental transfer to Health*)**
- ★50. Mr K Motsamai (Gauteng: EFF)—Employment and Labour. (*Interdepartmental transfer to Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs*)**
- ★51. Mr T Apleni (Eastern Cape: EFF)—Employment and Labour. (*Interdepartmental transfer to Basic Education*)**

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- ★52. Mr A B Cloete (Free State: FF Plus)—Finance.
- ★58. Mr D R Ryder (Gauteng: DA)—Finance.
- ★60. Mr W A S Aucamp (Northern Cape: DA)—Finance.
- ★61. Mr W A S Aucamp (Northern Cape: DA)—Finance. (*Interdepartmental transfer to Justice and Correctional Services*)