

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION PAPER

Note:

1. ★ Indicates a question for oral reply.

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

WEDNESDAY, 26 AUGUST 2020

CLUSTER 4: ECONOMICS

★337. Mr N Singh (IFP) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Forestry and Fisheries:

Whether she has found that the current dire financial situation at Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife can lead to massive negative ramifications regarding the current levels of protection currently provided to critically endangered wildlife resident within the parks; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what (a) steps is her department immediately implementing in order to mitigate such risks and (b) are the full relevant details?

NO2348E

★330. Dr N P Nkabane (ANC) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

- (1) Despite the closure of most labour centres, what are the relevant details of how his department has succeeded in ensuring that millions of employees benefit from the Temporary Employer-Employee Relief Scheme while normal Unemployment Insurance Fund benefits were being paid;
- (2) what has his department done to extend the Temporary Employer-Employee Relief Scheme to employees in the vulnerable sectors of the economy?

NO2339E

★349. Mrs A Steyn (DA) to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:

By what date will she announce the full relevant details of the beneficiaries of the R1,3 billion Covid-19 Agricultural Disaster Fund of her department? NO2360E

★370. Rev K R J Meshoe (ACDP) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether, in light of the higher spending on social grants, hospitals and other Covid-19-related matters, as well as increased debt service costs with projected lower tax collection, the National Treasury is confident it will achieve fiscal sustainability and consolidate its debt targets; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO2381E

★332. Ms P N Abraham (ANC) to ask the Minister of Finance:

With reference to an expected 7.2% contraction of the national economy in the 2020-21 financial year, the prediction by historians that this will be the worst contraction of the economy in over 90 years and a projected R 300 billion tax revenue shortfall for the current financial year because of the Covid-19 pandemic, (a) what measures will the National Treasury put in place to stimulate economic recovery through job creation in the short to medium term and (b) how will the National Treasury deal with the risks posed to its economic recovery strategy by some of the state-owned enterprises that are in dire financial crises?

NO2342E

★369. Mr A M Shaik Emam (NFP) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Forestry and Fisheries:

- (1) What were the reasons that her department never released the report by the University of KwaZulu-Natal of the research conducted a while ago into the high levels of pollution and its impact on the residents living in Merebank, Bluff, Jacobs and Lamontville,
- (2) whether she will furnish Mr A M Shaik Emam with the contents of the specified report; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO2380E

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

In view of mining activity that commenced during the lockdown to curb the spread of Covid-19 and coal supply for electricity generation that was permitted to avoid load shedding, how does the Government intend to ensure the further development of the mining and energy sectors in preparation for a recovery dispensation after Covid-19?

NO2344E

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

Whether pension funds will be obliged to invest in the Government's planned infrastructure build project amounting to R2,3 trillion; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO2366E

★348. Mr N F Shivambu (EFF) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether there were transactional advisors who were involved in securing the loans from the International Monetary Fund; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) who were the advisors and (b) what amount was each advisor paid?

NO2359E

★333. Ms A H Mthembu (ANC) to ask the Minister of Communications:

How does (a) the National Digital and Future Skills Strategy (details furnished) promote skills capacity for all sectors of the economy within the context of the digital transformation and technological advancement of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and (b) her department envisage collaborative implementation of the strategy with social partners in the context of Covid-19?

NO2343E

★335. Ms M M E Thlape (ANC) to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:

With agriculture remaining one of the most important sectors of the economy with a great potential to help build an inclusive and growing economy (details furnished), how will (a) her department ensure that the expansion of commercial farming enterprises benefit most of the Republic's impoverished rural areas through effective urban-rural market linkages and (b) the use of sector-level agreements and social compact work towards an enhanced agricultural investment in the rural market economies?

NO2345E

★336. Mr P M P Modise (ANC) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Forestry and Fisheries:

(a) How has she found that the Covid-19 pandemic affected the development of our oceans economy and (b) what strategic plan has her department put in place to ensure the recovery and growth of the oceans economy post-Covid-19?

NO2346E

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

What number of (a) Independent Power Producers (IPPs) have been licenced to generate electricity since 1 December 2019 and (b) the specified IPPs have been selling electricity to Eskom?

NO2370E

★347. Mr N F Shivambu (EFF) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether he has appointed an interim Board of Directors for the Public Investment Corporation since the mandate of the board that was appointed in July 2019 came to an end in July 2020; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) who was appointed and (b) what process was followed?

NO2358E

★331. Ms N L Hermans (ANC) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

(a) How is his department dealing with the challenges of employers who have received the Temporary Employer-Employee Relief Scheme benefits, but have not passed on the money to their employees and (b) what further steps will he take to hold those involved in alleged corruption accountable for placing the livelihood of employees at risk?

NO2340E

★372. Mr M N Nxumalo (IFP) to ask the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy:

In light of the recent decision that he will no longer continue with an appeal on the black ownership threshold ruling, (a) what are the relevant details that led him to the decision to withdraw from the appeal and (b) does he no longer hold the same views as before his decision to withdraw the appeal?

NO2383E

★362. Mr N E Hinana (DA) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

What are the relevant details of his department's plans to address the rising unemployment rate, especially in light of the devastating effects that the Government's extended lockdown to curb the spread of Covid-19 has had on the Republic's already frail economy?

NO2373E

★371. Mr S N Swart (ACDP) to ask the Minister of Finance:

What measures has the National Treasury taken and/or will be taken in conjunction with law enforcement agencies to (a) hold accounting officers and other officials accountable in terms of the Public Finance Management Act, No 1 of 1999, and the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, No 56 of 2003, for Covid-19-related procurement corruption in order to recover state funds that have been misappropriated in the process and (b) prevent further corruption taking place with Covid-19 procurement by state entities?

NO2382E

★364. Ms P T van Damme (DA) to ask the Minister of Communications:

What is her department's position on the retrenchment of a number of staff employed by the SA Broadcasting Corporation in order to reduce its employee compensation by R700 million a year?

NO2375E

★345. Mrs K N F Hlonyana (EFF) to ask the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy:

Whether he is considering to use the clause on the Power Purchasing Agreements (PPAs) that states that if the national legislation changes to make the PPAs non-viable, independent power producers (IPPs) will be paid capital expenditure of the IPPs' plants; if not; what is the position in this regard; if so, is this process already underway?

NO2356E

★366. Ms T M Mbabama (DA) to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:

What mechanisms are currently in place to allow occupants of land owned by the Ingonyama Trust to gain access to financing for agricultural purposes from (a) the Government and (b) commercial banks? NO2377E

★344. Mrs E N Ntlangwini (EFF) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

What measures has he put in place to ensure that employers who applied for the Relief Fund do not retrench employees soon after receiving the funds? NO2355E

★373. Ms Z Majozi (IFP) to ask the Minister of Communications:

Whether, given the state of the SA Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) and its role as the public broadcaster, her department has identified the major challenges faced by the SABC since the Covid-19 lockdown regulations were implemented; if not, why not; if so, what (a) are the specified challenges and (b) kind of support did her department offer with regard to implementing the lockdown regulations? NO2384E

★350. Mrs A Steyn (DA) to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:

Whether any of the offices and/or sections in her department is dealing with a backlog in the processing of any statutory compliance applications; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) which office and/or section in her department is dealing with the specified backlog and (b) what are the reasons for the backlog in each office and/or section? NO2361E

★374. Mr W M Thring (ACDP) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

With reference to the SA Reserve Bank forecasting a 7% contraction of the economy by the end of 2020 and economists predicting a loss of about three million jobs, what mitigating interventions has he implemented to reduce the plague of corruption and other systemic glitches in the Temporary Employer-Employee Relief Scheme system? NO2385E

★351. Mr C MacKenzie (DA) to ask the Minister of Communications:

Whether, with reference to the ownership and establishment of the proposed wireless open access network (WOAN) company referenced in the 2016 Information and Communications Technology White Paper, as well as the recent spectrum policy directive to the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, she has determined the criteria by which individuals will be eligible to participate in the ownership of the WOAN; if not, by what date will she make the determination; if so, what are the relevant details? NO2362E

★339. Mr M K Montwedi (EFF) to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:

(a) What are the reasons that her department refused to give Lulama and Nothandekile Kapa a lease agreement over a certain property (details furnished), where they have been farming since 1989 and (b) what influence does a certain family (name furnished), who has been threatening the Kapa family with eviction, have over her department's decision to refuse to grant the Kapa family leaseholds over the land? NO2350

★352. Mr C MacKenzie (DA) to ask the Minister of Communications:

(a) What are the relevant details of the steps that have been taken to fill the position of Chief Executive Officer of the SA Post Office after the resignation of Mr Mark Barnes in August 2019 and (b) by what date is it envisaged that the specified position will be filled permanently? NO2363E

★338. Mr M K Montwedi (EFF) to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:

What (a) are the relevant details of the projects that her department has undertaken with farmers that have multi-year financial implications with regard to the support offered to the specified projects in their location and (b) is the minimum number of years that it will take the projects before making their first harvest? NO2349E

★376. Ms Z Majozi (IFP) to ask the Minister of Communications:

What (a) role has her department played to assist the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) in bringing all networks on board with the release of the spectrum and (b) steps has her department taken to ensure that ICASA follows the regulations in order to provide healthy competition between networks? NO2387E

★353. Mrs C Phillips (DA) to ask the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy:

Whether the first payment made to a certain company (name furnished) for the building of the national monument and memorial commissioned by the Mine Health and Safety Council in 2017 was made before the contract was signed; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what action has been taken against the persons found to have been involved in authorising the irregular expenditure? NO2364E

★375. Mr W M Thring (ACDP) to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:

In light of the fact that during the Adjustments Appropriation process, her department's budget was reduced by R2,4 billion (details furnished), how does she intend to turn around the negative social impact the reductions will have on (a) household food security and (b) the agricultural sector? NO2386E

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

Whether the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) received any complaints regarding suspicious transactions connected to any member, person and/or company associated with the Gupta family between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2019; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what (a) number of complaints were received and (b) action did the FIC take to investigate the specified complaints? NO2365E

★340. Mr N S Matiase (EFF) to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:

With reference to the R20 million her department set aside for the use of traditional leaders for hygiene and personal protective equipment, what (a) is the name of each traditional leader to whom the money was distributed and (b) was the money used for in each case? NO2351E

★356. Mr G G Hill-Lewis (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

With reference to his Supplementary Budget Speech on 24 June 2020, wherein he committed to achieving a primary surplus and debt stability by the 2023-24 financial year, what are the relevant details of his plans to achieve the specified commitment? NO2367E

★341. Mr M N Paulsen (EFF) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Forestry and Fisheries:

What assistance is her department giving to the thousands of traditional fishers from coastal fishing communities whose livelihood have been criminalised as illegal fishing, resulting in them being unable to apply for fishing quotas and/or permits due to criminal records? NO2352E

★357. Mr G G Hill-Lewis (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

What progress has been made with the implementation of the National Treasury's document on economic reform, titled *Economic Transformation, Inclusive Growth and Competitiveness: Towards an Economic Strategy for South Africa*? NO2368E

★358. Ms H S Winkler (DA) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Forestry and Fisheries:

By what date will the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Climate Change be convened? NO2369E

★342. Mr M N Paulsen (EFF) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Forestry and Fisheries:

What informed her decision to abolish the establishment of a Fisheries Transformation Council on 2 August 2019 as section 29 of the Marine Living Resources Act, Act 18 of 1998, calls for the establishment of the specified council? NO2353E

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

Whether he has received the correspondence from Mr M Waters regarding an outstanding amount owed by the Workmen's Compensation Fund to the Edenvale Child Welfare; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, by what date does he intend to respond to the specified correspondence? NO2371E

★343. Mrs E N Ntlangwini (EFF) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

What (a) number of cases has his department detected of employers who claimed from the Unemployment Insurance Fund on behalf of employees, but did not pay their employees what was due to them and (b) action has his department taken against the employers? NO2354E

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

Whether he has received the correspondence from Mr M Waters regarding (a) the court victory of inspectors at the City of Ekurhuleni of which the City refuses to implement the judgment and (b) the appalling conditions at the City's training academy; if so, by what date does he intend to respond to the specified correspondence? NO2372E

★363. Mr N P Masipa (DA) to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:

What (a) total number of farms are currently being leased by her department and (b) are the relevant details of the process that needs to be followed to renew a lease agreement with her department? NO2374E

★346. Mrs K N F Hlonyana (EFF) to ask the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy:

Whether his department is implementing a renewable energy project to refinance independent power producers; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what amount will this cost the Government? NO2357E

★365. Ms P T van Damme (DA) to ask the Minister of Communications:

Whether she relied on any constitutional and/or statutory provisions when she addressed the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Communications regarding the appointment process of the newly appointed Councillors of the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa; if not, what was her position based on in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? NO2376E

★367. Dr M J Cardo (DA) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

What total (a) amount of the Covid-19 Temporary Employer-Employee Relief Scheme (TERS) fund has been disbursed by the Unemployment Insurance Fund in each month since 1 April 2020 and (b) number of persons benefited from the TERS fund in each of the specified months? NO2378E

★368. Dr M J Cardo (DA) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

What (a) number of active legal cases are currently open against the Compensation Fund for outstanding compensations due to medical service providers and (b) is the total value of the outstanding payments?

NO2379E