

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION PAPER

Note:

1. ★ Indicates an oral question.

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

WEDNESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2023

CLUSTER 4: ECONOMICS

★787. Ms Z Nkomo (ANC) to ask the Minister of Finance:

What (a) steps has the National Treasury taken to address the poor quality of expenditure, which negatively impacts on targeted programmes and is one of the biggest drains on the national fiscus and (b) has been the total cost to the fiscus over the past financial year of the poor quality of expenditure in national and provincial departments as well as state owned entities? NO5216E

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

On what date does he envisage to share the report of the forensic investigation into the thwarted R5 billion Unemployment Insurance Fund/ Thuja Capital deal with the Portfolio Committee of Employment and Labour? NO5260E

★828. Mr K Ceza (EFF) to ask the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy:

What (a) implications will the costs associated with involvement the Independent Power Producers to generate energy have on the poor and (b) plans and/or strategies have been developed to assist in the stabilisation of Eskom to save ordinary South Africans from the energy crisis and associated costs? NO5269E

★788. Mr L E Molala (ANC) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

- (1) Considering that the SA Post Office (SAPO) SOC Ltd Amendment Bill of 2021 provides for the expansion of services (details furnished), how will the business rescue placed on SAPO ensure that it still maintains a strong presence across the Republic as a convenient option for those in far-flung areas who cannot afford to travel to the city and/or towns to access such services;
- (2) what modernisation programme has been put in place for the duration of the business rescue plan? NO5217E

★807. Mr N Singh (IFP) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) How does her plan for a just transition and low carbon economy balances itself against current socio-economic challenges and necessity for a coal-based energy supply and employment in the fossil fuel sector;
- (2) whether there will be skills transfer programmes for people employed in the fossil fuel sector as it transitions to a renewable energy future; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, how will this be ensured with Sasol which is the current fossil fuel energy supplier? NO5241E

★789. Ms N P Mahlo (ANC) to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:

Considering that the Republic has been experiencing an increase in the cost of feed and on various other inputs which has led to the increase in the cost of poultry farming in comparison to the price of imported chicken, (a) how does her department intend to deal with the increase in input costs resulting in high prices of chicken and eggs and (b) what is the strategy of her department for expanding poultry farming in the Republic and thereby reducing imports? NO5218E

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

Considering the ongoing consumer confidence crisis and the Government's struggle with economic growth, what (a) definitive guidance will he provide on potential tax hikes and/or contemplated tax adjustments, including a VAT hike, for the 2024-25 financial year and (b) is the National Treasury's detailed plan to address the market uncertainty and investment planning challenges that may be caused by the economic policy ambiguities and the absence of a definitive guidance? NO5256E

★790. Ms N P Tyobeka-Makeke (ANC) to ask the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy:

Whether, in light of the recommendation of the Portfolio Committee on Mineral Resources and Energy that his department must undertake the review of the Basic Fuel Price (BFP) components of the petrol price, there (a) are any economic limits and/or constraints to which his department can effectively remove the 15 percent Country Risk Premium in the BFP which is unjustifiable and (b) is any economic reason why stock financing should be in the Import Parity Price for fuel as this is a 30 day-cash business; if not, why not, in each case; if so, what are the relevant details in each case?

NO5219E

★826. Mr B N Herron (Good) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

Whether, following the recent tabling of the Medium-Term Budget in which more fiscal challenges were highlighted, which means that more essential services will have to cut back on even more services, he, in collaboration with the relevant Ministers, considered the possibility of the alternative usage of the Unemployment Insurance Fund and the Compensation Fund, which individually hold about R100 billion in surplus funds, to ease fiscal constraints; if not, what are the reasons that this is not an option; if so, what are the outcomes?

NO5267E

★791. Mr S W Mdabe (ANC) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

Given that the Unemployment Insurance Fund and the Compensation Fund have not yet submitted their annual financial statements and performance reports for the 2022-23 financial year audit, similar to the previous year, what plan is in place to ensure compliance by the specified two entities, as they have received significant criticism from the general public on the subpar services that they offer?

NO5220E

★814. Mr D W Bryant (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

Whether, in view of the recent spike in criminal incidents on Table Mountain which is a cause for concern for locals and tourists, she has investigated and found the allegations to be true that members of the Sea, Air and Mountain unit of the Table Mountain National Park have been operating without firearms during the crisis due to the expiry of firearm licences; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what (a) are the reasons and (b) steps have been taken to remedy the situation?

NO5251E

★829. Adv B J Mkhwebane (EFF) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

What (a) were the reasons why iKwekwezi FM was relocated from the City of Tshwane to Auckland Park in Johannesburg, when, according to regulations of the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA), it is not compulsory for a radio station to be geographically based where its listeners reside and (b) are the details of the provisions of the ICASA regulations were relied on when the radio station was relocated?

NO5270E

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

- (1) Looking at the required capital to expand the electricity transmission network, what policy and/or regulatory issues need to be urgently addressed to incentivise private investment in the transmission network;
- (2) whether the Government has the fiscal capacity to expand the transmission network on its own in case private investment is not forthcoming; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? NO5221E

★785. Mr S M Jafta (AIC) to ask the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy:

- (1) What form of public participation process was followed in approving the oil and gas exploration off the coast of KwaZulu-Natal;
- (2) whether her department considers sustainable development considerations in its approval process, as required in terms of section 24(b)(iii) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NO4218E

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

Considering that the Municipal Cleaning and Greening Programme, which she launched in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality, envisages a mass employment programme to prevent environmental degradation and reduce litter and illegal dumping throughout the Republic, by what date does she intend expanding the specified project to all provinces, as it addresses the two key challenges of environmental conservation and a direct response to the unemployment problem in the Republic? NO5222E

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

Considering that the high levels of poverty, unemployment and inequality in the Republic are indicative of the low levels of demand in the economy, with the majority of persons not having sufficient resources to drive economic activity in the economy, what are the immediate demand-side measures that the National Treasury is using to stimulate demand in the economy to enhance household consumption? NO5223E

★823. Mr A N Sarupen (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether the National Treasury intends to budget for 0% salary increases in the public sector in the 2024-25 financial year; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, on what basis? NO5262E

★830. Mr S Tambo (EFF) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

What steps of intervention have been taken to improve the performance of the SA Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), which is currently on a downward spiral in terms of revenue growth and heavily relies on government bailouts and/or subsidisation? NO5271E

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

(a) What measures has he, in cooperation with the SA Social Security Agency (SASSA) and the Department of Social Development, put in place to avoid a reoccurrence of the unfortunate delay in the payment of SASSA grants due to a technical glitch in the SA Post Office system and (b) how is he mitigating against the implications of the variation order by the SA Reserve Bank on the performance and ability of the SA Postbank to expand its services into that of a fully-fledged bank? NO5225E

★809. Inkosi R N Cebekhulu (IFP) to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:

What plans does she have in place to increase employment opportunities for youth through agricultural development in rural areas, considering that the rural economies are reliant on agriculture and natural resource extraction which do not offer diverse and stable employment and many young people therefore struggle to find meaningful, sustainable jobs in their local rural areas? NO5243E

★797. Ms B Tshwete (ANC) to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:

What are the relevant details of the (a) progress regarding the targets to export cooked and raw poultry products to the Southern African Development Community, countries in the African Continental Free Trade Area, the United Arab Emirates, the European Union and the Middle East (details furnished) and (b) programme and/or evidence that is in place that her department will achieve the targets of exporting local production at a rate of 3% to 5% by 2024? NO5226E

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

Whether, with reference to the judgment that was delivered on 25 October 2023 in the Gauteng Division of the High Court of South Africa, which ousted specific sections of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, Act 75 of 1997, that deal with maternity and paternity leave, the new structured environment that substituted section 25(1) of the specified legislation for taking paternity leave is already in place; if not, why not; if so, how is his department handling applications for paternity leave under the new structured environment? NO5250E

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

- (1) Whether there are any strategic interventions in place aimed at ensuring that the volumes sales that have been declining for several years and the implementation of the Electricity Regulation Act, Act 4 of 2006, do not lead to a deterioration in Eskom's liquidity for funding access and credit rating; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) how will the diminishing volumes of sales for Eskom be reversed amid the increasing number of efficient independent power producers? NO5227E

★827. Mr B N Herron (Good) to ask the Minister in The Presidency for Electricity:

Considering that one of the key promises in the Just Transition is the inclusion of workers and businesses from the coal electricity sector into the new renewable production, and Komati Coal Power Station was supposed to be the catalyst of this transition but the independent study done by the Presidential Climate Commission showed that this was not the case, what (a) plans does his Office have in place to assist the workers and businesses in the Komati area and (b) framework will his Office use moving forward to ensure this incident does not reoccur at the next coal to renewables transition?

NO5268E

★799. Ms V T Malinga (ANC) to ask the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy:

- (1) How has his department improved its debt collection controls in the current financial year to avoid the risk of the debts not being recoverable, as the debt-collection controls were inadequate and the annual license fees were not revised in the previous financial year;
- (2) whether his department has addressed constraints in reviewing annual license fees so that stagnant fees do not inflict lasting damage to its financial statement; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO5228E

★815. Mr D W Bryant (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

Whether she will take any steps in relation to the prohibition of the export of live lions in terms of the National Environmental Management Laws Amendment Act, Act 2 of 2022, both in general and specifically in relation to recent restrictions imposed on the export of CITES-listed species to the Lao People's Democratic Republic; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO5252E

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

- (a) What measures have been put in place to increase the pace of farmers adapting technical and technological farming methods and (b) in what form does her department invest in the technical and technological aspects to support farmers so as to improve their agricultural yields?

NO5273E