

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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# QUESTION PAPER

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Note:

1. ★ Indicates an oral question.
2. † Indicates a translated question.

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### Table of Contents

Basic Education .....	64, 65, 67, 68, 69, 70
Health.....	64, 66, 67, 68, 70
Higher Education, Science and Innovation.....	62, 63, 64, 66, 67, 69
Human Settlements .....	63, 64, 69, 70
Social Development.....	63, 65, 66, 67, 68
Sport, Arts and Culture .....	66, 67, 69, 70
Water and Sanitation.....	63, 65, 67, 68, 69

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### QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

**WEDNESDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2021**

#### CLUSTER 2: SOCIAL SERVICES

**★346. Mr S Tambo (EFF) to ask the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation:**

In view of the fact that the Republic is in the middle of a pandemic and that many students have no data and no access to university residences, while universities have conceded that online learning or physically distanced learning has academically impacted students negatively, what informed the decision of his department and National Student Financial Aid Scheme to increase the eligibility for funding percentage to 75% instead of the current 50%?

NO3009E

**★313. Adv T M Masutha (ANC) to ask the Minister of Human Settlements:**

Given that the Government has demonstrated its commitment to providing shelter for the poor and persons with disability and noting that in the process of expanding housing projects in rural and urban areas, it is of great concern that incomplete houses continue to exist, what (a) steps does the Government intend to take to address incomplete housing projects and (b) measures have been undertaken to recoup funds lost to incomplete projects?

NO2966E

**★343. Ms L L van der Merwe (IFP) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

With reference to the process that is currently being undertaken by the SA Social Services Agency (SASSA) of suspending the payment of social grants amounting to R200 million to 177 108 public servants, who were not entitled to any payments, and in view of the reports that SASSA is in the process of recovering the funds and to report employees who were not entitled to any payments in order for them to be referred for disciplinary action, what total (a) amount has been recovered to date by SASSA relating to undue grants paid and (b) number of SASSA officials have been referred for disciplinary action relating to this matter to date?

NO3006E

**★314. Ms G K Tseke (ANC) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:**

In view of the fact that the Republic is a water scarce country and that our conditions require co-operation and awareness by all domestic and industrial water users, as illegal dams have an impact on river catchments and water distribution, what is his (a) findings of the impact illegal dams has on water security and (b) department doing to address the problem of illegal dams?

NO2967E

**★341. Dr L A Schreiber (DA) vra die Minister van Hoër Onderwys, Wetenskap en Innovasie:**

Waarom, met verwysing na sy antwoord op vraag 1603 op 15 Junie 2021, hy beweer dat Afrikaans sowel as Khoi-, San- en Namatale nie deur die omskrywing van inheemse tale soos vervat in die Taalbeleidsraamwerk vir Hoër Onderwysinstellings uitgesluit en/of benadeel word nie?

NO3004A

*(Translation):***[Dr L A Schreiber to ask the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation†:**

With reference to his reply to 1603 on 15 June 2021, what are the reasons that he is alleging that Afrikaans and all Khoi, San and Nama languages are not being excluded and/or disadvantaged by the definition of indigenous languages as used by the Language Policy Framework for Higher Education Institutions?

NO3004E]

**★312. Rev K R J Meshoe (ACDP) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

Whether her department has any definitive plans in place to assist able-bodied dependents on social grants to transition from being solely dependent on grants to assisting them to find alternative forms of income; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO2965E

**★315. Ms K D Mahlatsi (ANC) to ask the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation:**

- (1) Whether, in view of the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted the post-schooling sector, particularly around matters related to access, and in view of the various lessons that can be drawn by his department from their experience during the 2021 academic year and also noting that the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) will expect a R10 billion shortfall in its student funding for the 2022 academic year, which further exacerbates and puts a strain on access to learning, he will outline to the public the state of readiness of his department for the 2022 academic year; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) what plans does his department have in place to address the shortfall that is expected by NSFAS? NO2968E

**★359. Mr A M Shaik Emam (NFP) to ask the Minister of Human Settlements:**

Whether, given that there has been numerous calls that the Government should stop building Reconstruction and Development Programme houses and rather provide fully serviced sites to persons with a state loan at a very low interest rate in order for them to build decent homes, in line with the requirements of the Human Settlements Development Bank, she will provide an update on the provision of fully serviced sites throughout the Republic for this purpose; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NO3022E

**★316. Mr M S Sokatsha (ANC) to ask the Minister of Health:**

What progress has been made on the 21 mental health infrastructure projects which are at different stages of implementation and that was funded in the 2019-20 financial year, considering that mental health is a serious concern in the Republic which requires hospitals to have licences to take care of patients' mental health problems, although many hospitals have challenges of capacity for mentally unfit patients, and given that mental health infrastructure additions, upgrades and renovations are funded through the Indirect Conditional Grant: Health Infrastructure Revitalisation Grant? NO2969E

**★325. Mr B B Nodada (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

Whether her department has put any mechanisms in place to improve the tracing of learners who have not been at school since March 2020 to address the high drop-out rates which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NO2988E

**★348. Mrs N R Mashabela (EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

What (a) has she found to have been the impact of the 54-hour water cuts in Johannesburg and some parts of the North West on the learners' ability to write examinations without inconveniences and (b) measures has her department on its own, and/or in collaboration with the relevant departments, put in place to deal with the water cuts in schools? NO3011E

**★317. Ms J Manganye (ANC) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

What (a) are the outcomes and (b) is the impact of the implementation of the National Anti-Gangsterism Strategy in view of the fact that violence in our society has led to various crimes and abuses in many communities, and that gangsterism remains prevalent in many communities, bringing pain to many households? NO2970E

**★310. Mr M G E Hendricks (Al Jamah-ah) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:**

- (1) Whether, with regard to several areas under different municipalities in KwaZulu-Natal (names and details furnished) where thousands of residents must endure daily water interruptions, and although the issue of water interruptions had been brought to his attention, the problem continues to violate the basic human rights of persons to have access to water while it is a sign of failed service delivery at the same time by the specified municipalities, his department had investigated the matter; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether he has found that an intervention is required in municipalities that are failing in their duty to provide delivery of basic water needs to residents; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what plans does his department have to end the frequent water interruptions which residents must endure for many days? NO2816E

**★318. Mr P R Moroatshehla (ANC) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

- (1) What is the state of readiness of her department to receive the mandate of the administration, powers and functions of the Early Childhood Development (ECD) sector, given that from April 2022 the ECD sector will no longer be a provision of the Department of Social Development, but of Basic Education, as the President of the Republic, Mr M C Ramaphosa, signed the proclamation of its transfer to her department earlier this year;
- (2) whether she has found that there are any foreseeable challenges in relation to the transfer; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what steps are in place to mitigate the challenges? NO2971E

**★319. Ms N N Sihlwayi (ANC) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:**

What support is he and/or his department providing to local government in terms of section 154 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, to address the water and sanitation backlog, given that despite the commendable progress of the democratic government in providing basic services such as water and sanitation, many communities continue to struggle to access water and sanitation and sewage spillage is becoming the norm in many townships? NO2972E

**★326. Ms B S Masango (DA) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

Whether any plans have been put in place to address the ongoing and detrimental challenges faced by social grant recipients who have to rely on the beleaguered SA Post Office for their social grants; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NO2989E

**★345. Mr S Tambo (EFF) to ask the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation:**

What is his department's position on the call for the cancellation of all student debt?  
NO3008E

**★320. Ms N Q Mvana (ANC) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

Given that her department has played a critical role in providing social protection to the vulnerable under the health pandemic conditions and that the Social Relief of Distress grant of R350, which is coming to an end in March 2022, is a necessary intervention to alleviate poverty, (a) what has been her findings on the impact of the R350 grant and (b) how is her department integrating social support to developmental programmes?  
NO2973E

**★344. Ms M Hlengwa (IFP) to ask the Minister of Health:**

With reference to a recent state-of-health report relating to the province of KwaZulu-Natal that highlighted the shortage of nursing staff across various districts of KwaZulu-Natal (details furnished), what (a) total number of vacancies for nurses exist in KwaZulu-Natal and (b) is being done to address the shortage?  
NO3007E

**★337. Mrs E R Wilson (DA) to ask the Minister of Health:**

With reference to his department's 2020-21 annual report, what steps will he take to address the Auditor-General's concern that no evidence could be found that disciplinary steps were taken against officials who had incurred irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure because investigations were never performed?  
NO3000E

**★321. Rev K R J Meshoe (ACDP) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

Whether her department is aware of any muggings and/or robberies taking place at social grant payout points, especially of persons who wait at these points overnight to be early in the queue; if so, (a) which of these payout points are more dangerous and (b) what steps are being taken by her department to mitigate such attacks?  
NO2984E

**★360. Mr A M Shaik Emam (NFP) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

Noting her laudable decision to deploy more social workers within the communities, (a) by what date is it envisaged that more social workers will be deployed and (b) what total number of social workers will be deployed?  
NO3023E

**★339. Mr T W Mhlongo (DA) to ask the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture:**

With reference to the recommendations contained in the Mazars Forensic Report which was released on 13 November 2021, what progress has been made with the (a) implementation of corrective measures recommended in the report in terms of operational aspects of the National Arts Council of South Africa (NAC) and (b) institution of disciplinary action against the officials of the NAC who were found to have been involved in the mismanagement of the R300 million Presidential Employment Stimulus Package funds meant to help struggling artists during the lockdown to curb the spread of COVID-19?  
NO3002E

**★347. Mrs N R Mashabela (EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

(a) What is the total number of mud schools that still exist in the Eastern Cape and (b) on what date is it envisaged that her department will ensure that there is not a single mud school existing in that province?

NO3010E

**★330. Mrs C Phillips (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:**

Whether, with reference to the recent sewerage spill in the Port of Durban caused by a generator that failed at the sewerage pump station at 1 Mahatma Gandhi Road during load-shedding, his department intends to take any action against the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality for its failure to put adequate measures in place to ensure that the sewerage pump station is able to continue operating as required during load-shedding; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO2993E

**★357. Ms N N Chirwa (EFF) to ask the Minister of Health:**

In light of the fact that the Council for Medical Schemes has released Circulars 80 and 82 that effectively call for an end to the Low Cost Benefit Option on health insurance, what is the (a) position of his department on the end of this option when the National Health Insurance has not been rolled out as yet and (b) alternative in the interim, noting that the situation with accessing clinics remains the same?

NO3020E

**★311. Mr S L Ngcobo (IFP) to ask the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation:**

- (1) What are the relevant details pertaining to the proposed guidelines from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) that will require students to pass 75% of their course modules to continue getting funding in 2023;
- (2) in light of these new guidelines, what support mechanisms are in place for students above the 50% pass mark under the new proposal who are likely to lose their funding in 2023 based on previous pass rates of NSFAS students across the Republic?

NO2964E

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

With reference to the widespread delays in the paying out of the Presidential Employment Stimulus Relief Fund disbursements to early childhood development centres (ECDs), what are the reasons that her department has decided to implement a centralised application and verification process when provincial departments of social development are arguably better placed to handle the applications and ensure the timely disbursement of funds to ECDs?

NO2985E

**★361. Mr C H M Sibisi (NFP) to ask the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture:**

- (1) What steps does he intend to take to reverse the impact the wrongdoing, administrative incompetence and significant breaches of governance and financial mismanagement of the members of the National Arts Council of South Africa (NAC) have had on the many affected artists who did not receive any assistance when they needed it the most from the NAC;

- (2) what steps will he take to assist the artists who did not receive their disbursements? NO3024E

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

What are the details of the (a) social worker and (b) National Development Agency employment programmes that have been earmarked to receive the R150 million during Phase 2 of the Presidential Employment Stimulus Relief Fund? NO2986E

**★356. Ms N N Chirwa (EFF) to ask the Minister of Health:**

On what date is it envisaged that his department will investigate the actual impact and reality of mesh awareness that activists have been raising for years in the Republic, in order to respond with sound health care and judgement, in light of the fact that transvaginal and hernia mesh survivors who have had complications, have no recourse to get corrective surgery? NO3019E

**★324. Mr B B Nodada (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

Whether all contractors who did not complete work and/or delivered a poor quality of work for her department in each of the past three financial years have been referred for inclusion in the Central Supplier Database, administered by the National Treasury, to ensure that they do not do business with her department again; if not, in each case, why not; if so, what are the relevant details in each case? NO2987E

**★349. Mrs M R Mohlala (EFF) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:**

In light of the fact that the villagers of Qunu, the home of the late former President, Mr Nelson Mandela, have no water and while its residents are sharing water with animals from natural streams, what measures will his department take and/or implement to resolve the problem of access to clean water as a basic human right for the residents of Qunu? NO3012E

**★342. Mr S L Ngcobo (IFP) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

- (1) What are the full details of the progress by her department of the online school admission processes for the 2022 academic year across the Republic;
- (2) whether she has found that her department has offered enough information on how concerned parents can navigate the online application system better in preparation for the 2022 academic year; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? NO3005E

**★327. Ms B S Masango (DA) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

What is the current status of her negotiations with other departments and/or entities to permanently absorb the over 8 000 unemployed social workers in the Republic? NO2990E

**★362. Mr C H M Sibisi (NFP) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

What mechanism will she put in place to improve the quality of the level of basic education as the drop-out rate, which is a result of the poor quality of education, in the first year of higher education stands at 60% costing the fiscus billions of rand as basic education does not adequately prepare the students for higher education? NO3025E

**★328. Ms C V King (DA) to ask the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation:**

With reference to the R7 billion shortfall of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme to fund students in the 2021 academic year, what is the projected shortfall in student funding for the 2022 academic year? NO2991E

**★350. Mrs M R Mohlala (EFF) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:**

What steps has he taken to deal with the challenges identified by the Auditor-General in the audit reports of the 2018-19 and 2019-20 financial years relating to management failures at the (a) Water Trading Entity and (b) Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority? NO3013E

**★329. Ms C V King (DA) to ask the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation:**

On what grounds did the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) rely when it proposed a 75% pass mark for returning students to qualify for financial aid according to the proposed NSFAS 2022 Eligibility Criteria and Conditions for Financial Aid? NO2992E

**★353. Ms N Tafeni (EFF) to ask the Minister of Human Settlements:**

Following the violence that accompanied the demolishing of residents' houses in Extension 6 in Soshanguve, what interventions has she taken to stop the practice of government departments and municipalities demolishing homes that residents have spent a lot of money building? NO3016E

**★331. Mr D Joseph (DA) to ask the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture:**

Whether his department is providing any form of support to the Robben Island Museum given the drastic decline in the number of visitors and the associated reduction in income for the museum due to the Government's COVID-19 lockdown regulations; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NO2994E

**★332. Mrs D van der Walt (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

Whether, with reference to the increasing number of school pupil pregnancies and the shocking prevalence of sexual assault in schools, she intends to record school sexual assault statistics in her department for regular release coinciding with the crime statistics reports of the SA Police Service; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NO2995E

**★354. Ms N Tafeni (EFF) to ask the Minister of Human Settlements:**

What total (a) number of disabled persons are on the housing waiting list and (b) amount would it cost to build each one of them a decent home? NO3017E

**★335. Ms H Ismail (DA) to ask the Minister of Health:**

What total number of (a) J&J and (b) Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines have had to be discarded because they were unsuitable to be administered? NO2998E

**★355. Dr S S Thembekwayo (EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

In light of the fact that the Auditor-General found that there is lack of consequence management in her department for officials who are responsible for irregular expenditure and corruption, what steps has she taken to correct the defect? NO3018E

**★336. Ms H Ismail (DA) to ask the Minister of Health:**

Whether, with reference to the numerous issues associated with medical students training in the Republic of Cuba under the Nelson Mandela-Fidel Castro Medical Collaboration Programme, his department is considering to establish other medical collaboration programmes with any other country; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? NO2999E

**★338. Mrs E R Wilson (DA) to ask the Minister of Health:**

With reference to the instruction issued in 2020 by the Council of Medical Schemes to practitioners and medical schemes to include COVID-19 testing as a Prescribed Minimum Benefit in their medical aid plans, (a) what factors were taken into account before determining the price of R850,00 for a test and (b) what is the reason that a COVID-19 test that is conducted by a private laboratory still cost R850,00 when it is estimated that the actual cost of conducting the test is much less? NO3001E

**★358. Mr B S Madlingozi (EFF) to ask the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture:**

What is the current status of the forensic report that implicates the National Arts Council of South Africa in the mismanagement of the Presidential Employment Stimulus Programme? NO3021E

**★340. Mrs V van Dyk (DA) to ask the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture:**

With reference to the refusal by Swimming South Africa (SSA) to release the Goldman Report into sexual abuse that was finalised in September 2020, allegedly due to the report being sub judice, (a) what are the details, excluding the merits, of the court case which is preventing SSA from releasing the report and (b) on what date will the court case be heard? NO3003E