NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER

Note:

1. ★ Indicates an oral question.

2. † Indicates the translated version of the question.

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

CLUSTER 4: ECONOMICS

★719. Mr S C Sekoati (ANC) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether any specific proactive measures have been taken to follow up on municipalities whose funds were withheld to ensure good governance, with emphasis on financial resource efficiency; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NO5447E

★720. Ms F Hassan (ANC) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

With reference to the expectation that the electricity pricing review will enable an efficient pricing system to be developed for the Republic, (a) what process will be followed to finalise the pricing review study following comments from stakeholders and (b) in what manner will the implementation of the findings occur, especially for poor and indigent households? NO5448E

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

Whether he has found that the Republic has adequate security of petroleum supply, considering the level of strategic stock held by the Strategic Fuel Fund and notwithstanding the extent of the dependence on imported refined product; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what (a) volume of strategic stock is available and (b) total number of days of national consumption does the specified volume represent? NO5449E

★722. Ms N Makasi (ANC) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

With reference to the alleged illegal discharge of hazardous chemicals from Sasol's Benfield operations into the Klipspruit River and the failure to secure contemporaneous river samples, what (a) scientific methods has his department used to establish the facts surrounding the alleged contamination and (b) measures have been implemented to prevent industrial pollution from compromising water security and public health? NO5450E

★723. Ms K L N Sangoni (ANC) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

Whether, following the termination of the Master Services Agreement between SA Social Security Agency and SA Postbank and the litigation that followed, he had intervened to protect the mandate of the SA Postbank as the state bank; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps has he taken to capacitate SA Postbank and (b) by what date will the authorisation to establish SA Postbank in 2016 be converted into registration as a bank by the Prudential Authority? NO5451E

★724. Mr S M Maeco (ANC) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

To what extent has she found the Labour Activation Programme has been effective in (a) reducing unemployment and (b) alleviating poverty for persons who are unemployed and not getting any formal education and/or vocational training? NO5452E

★725. Mr S I Subrathie (ANC) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

Whether, with reference to the shortfall of R120 million identified by the SA Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) for its coverage of the forthcoming local government elections and his decision not to support the SABC's funding request in the adjustments budget process, he will secure the required funding before polling day; if not, why not; if so, (a) through what mechanism and (b) by what date will the funding be secured? NO5454E

★726. Ms F Hassan (ANC) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources:

Considering the findings of the Auditor-General of South Africa in the follow-up performance audit on the rehabilitation of derelict and ownerless mines that the rate of rehabilitation improved only from 1,67% mines a year in 2009 to 2,25% mines a year by 2021, and noting the allocation of R87 million for the rehabilitation of derelict and ownerless mines in the 2026-27 financial year, by what year does his department expect the rehabilitation of all catalogued derelict and ownerless mines to be completed at the current rate of budget allocation? NO5455E

★727. Ms N A Ndalane (ANC) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:

With reference to his department's commitment made in 2021 to recruit 10 000 agricultural extension officers, which did not materialise and was repeated in the 2026 State of the Nation Address without adequate budget provision, what (a) funded recruitment and/or district-based deployment plan has his department developed and (b) specific measures will be implemented to ensure that adequately equipped extension officers are visible in farming communities? NO5456E

★728. Ms N S Nkopane (ANC) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

What (a) are the relevant details of the mechanisms that her department has put in place to manage the recruitment and deployment of the additional 10 000 labour inspectors to ensure equitable provincial distribution that particularly prioritises the rural provinces which are severely affected by the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality and (b) measurable impacts has the expanded workforce had on improving labour legislation compliance and/or enforcement outcomes in such underserved areas? NO5457E

★729. Ms J L Mokoena (ANC) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

What measures were implemented by his department to address (a) infrastructure backlogs and (b) security threats to the wildlife protected areas of the Republic in the 2025-26 financial year? NO5458E

★730. Mr V A Nkosi (ANC) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

What is the detailed timeline for the (a) operational deployment of the planned Solar Photovoltaic system at the decommissioned Komati Power Station and (b) commercial operation of the Battery Energy Storage system? NO5459E

★731. Ms N E Motaung (ANC) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:

Given the merger of the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme and Ilima/Letsema grants, and the allocation of more than R1,14 billion towards agricultural infrastructure, irrigation rehabilitation, production support and mechanisation, what (a) measurable service delivery targets has his department set for rural farmers across local municipalities in the 2026-27 financial year and (b) monitoring measures have been implemented to prevent incomplete projects or agricultural infrastructure that remain non-functional after completion? NO5460E

★732. Mr B M Maneli (ANC) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

What tangible benefits have resulted from the repositioning of the (a) Unemployment Insurance Fund and (b) Compensation Fund? NO5461E

★733. Ms N K Bilankulu (ANC) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

Given that wildlife trafficking remains a serious threat despite the continued investment in anti-poaching measures, what steps have been taken by his department to dismantle the organised criminal networks behind wildlife trafficking in the past three years, rather than focusing predominantly on arresting poachers? NO5462E

★734. Ms M M Senne (ANC) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources:

Whether the Mineral Resources Development Bill, 2025, which he indicated in the debate on Budget Vote 34 on 19 May 2026 that it was undergoing certification and would be submitted to Cabinet and thereafter to Parliament in the second quarter of the 2026-27 financial year, a period that ends on 30 September 2026, has been submitted to Cabinet; if not, (a) what is the reason for the delay and (b) by what date will the specified Bill be introduced in the National Assembly; if so, what are the relevant details? NO5463E

★735. Ms Z Khanyase (ANC) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

(a) What is the current extent of municipal-level and Eskom-direct load reduction currently implemented across each province and (b) which municipalities or high-density areas are experiencing the highest frequency of such scheduled cut-off? NO5464E

★736. Ms M L Mofokeng (ANC) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources:

Whether, in view of the decision of De Beers announced in July 2026 to place the Venetia Mine on care and maintenance for two years and of the process to dispose of the stake of Anglo American in De Beers, his department has a plan for the diamond industry; if not, why not; if so, what (a) measures have been put in place to absorb the affected workers and (b) steps have been taken to sustain the mandate of the State Diamond Trader? NO5465E

★737. Mr K J Mileham (DA) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

With reference to arrears on municipal debt owed to Eskom, what (a) is the total number of municipalities that are currently not paying their Eskom accounts in full and on time and (b) is the total amount of arrears on municipal debt presently owed to Eskom? NO5466E

★738. Mr K J Mileham (DA) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

With reference to reports that only 20% of Free Basic Electricity (FBE) beneficiaries receive the full 50 kWh monthly allocation, what (a) are the principal reasons that qualifying households do not receive the full benefit and (b) measures has his department implemented to ensure that funded FBE reaches qualifying households? NO5467E

★739. Mrs W R Alexander (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Given that nine months ago The Presidency handed over 500 companies to the National Treasury for potential blacklisting following extensive corruption and fraud investigations by the Special Investigating Unit, but only a mere 18 entities have been successfully restricted, leaving 491 companies still under review and still winning government tenders, what are the full details of the (a) policy and/or legislative provisions that the National Treasury relies on in allowing such companies to bid for government contracts and (b) time frame of the reviews for either blacklisting or clearing the companies? NO5468E

★740. Mrs W R Alexander (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

With reference to the Register for Tender Defaulters that was created 22 years ago to protect taxpayers' money and punish companies that fail to deliver on government contracts, what are the reasons that the National Treasury has failed to populate and enforce the specified register to implement real consequences for defaulters? NO5469E

★741. Mr K H Wakelin (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether, given that the economy remains trapped in low growth with unemployment at 33,6%, youth unemployment at 47,4% and economic growth at 0,5% in the second quarter of 2026-27 financial year, he has found that it is time to fundamentally reassess the Republic's economic transformation policies so that they promote investment, entrepreneurship, broad-based participation and sustainable jobs rather than becoming a compliance burden that constrains economic growth; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? NO5470E

★742. Mr K H Wakelin (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Given that Eskom reported R26,71 billion in procurement deviations and a further R4,16 billion in contract modifications in the fourth quarter of the 2025-26 financial year, what specific measures has the National Treasury taken to ensure that the shift from prior National Treasury approval to institutional accountability under supply chain management Instruction Note 3 of 2021-22 actually produces accountability and consequence management at Eskom and other state-owned entities? NO5471E

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

Whether she has found that the most effective and sustainable means to achieve economic transformation and redress historical inequalities is through strong labour-absorptive economic growth that creates employment opportunities for those currently excluded from the economy, to prevent an increase of the current staggering unemployment rate of 33,6%, which is a 0,9% increase from the previous quarter; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? NO5472E

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

What is the current progress regarding the (a) employment and (b) training of the 10 000 labour inspectors that the President of the Republic, Mr M C Ramaphosa, promised during the State of the Nation Address on 12 February 2026? NO5473E

★745. Mr A D de Blocq van Scheltinga (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

(a) What measures has his department taken to mitigate the effects of the unprecedented threat to the sardine stock which has led to mass mortalities from the pilchard herpesvirus and (b) how will he ensure that all necessary stakeholders are consulted and coordinated in the response plan? NO5474E

★**746. Mr A D de Blocq van Scheltinga (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

Considering that the January 2026 floods did immense damage to the infrastructure of the Kruger National Park, with some estimates putting the value of repair at over R1 billion, what are the full details of the rebuilding efforts, with particular focus on how rebuilt infrastructure will be more resilient to future climatic events? NO5475E

★**747. Mr J R B Lorimer (DA) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources:**

What (a) is the estimated total value of loss to the economy caused by illegal mining in the past three years and (b) specific steps has his department taken to assist Operation Prosper which aims to crack down on illegal activities? NO5476E

★**748. Mr J R B Lorimer (DA) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources:**

What steps has he taken to relieve the plight of junior and small diamond miners, given the collapse of output in the diamond mining sector? NO5477E

★**749. Mrs D van der Walt (DA) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:**

With regard to his recent call at the Agri North West Congress on 2 September 2026 for farm attacks targeting farmers and farm workers alike to be declared priority crimes, how will such a declaration help ensure that the crime receives the appropriate level of attention? NO5478E

★**750. Mrs D van der Walt (DA) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:**

Since he assumed office as Minister of Agriculture on 1 July 2026, what progress has been made with regard to (a) importing foot-and-mouth disease vaccines and (b) improving communication and coordination between his department, farmers and the farming organisations? NO5479E

★**751. Mr F Essack (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:**

Considering that the Acting City Manager of the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality has allegedly rejected the National Treasury's advice that the municipality's proposed R23 billion write-off of unauthorised, fruitless and wasteful expenditure would be unlawful because the items were not investigated individually as a requirement in terms of section 32 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, Act 56 of 2003, what steps has the National Treasury taken to stop the municipality from using an unlawful write-off to meet its compliance conditions before the deadline of 30 September 2026? NO5480E

★752. Mr F Essack (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether, with reference to the National Treasury's report on municipal compliance with the Municipal Finance Management Act, Act 56 of 2003, for the 2024-25 financial year, which found 13 municipal posts, 34 chief audit executive posts and 51 chief risk officer posts were vacant, and considering that the report linked the prolonged vacancies and acting appointments to poor audit outcomes and rising irregular expenditure, the National Treasury is responsible for ensuring that the specified vacancies are filled; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what steps has the National Treasury taken to ensure that such key financial posts are filled with suitably qualified people? NO5481E

★753. Mr S Zondi (DA) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources:

Whether, considering that section 34 of the Insolvency Act, Act 24 of 1936, provides that when a trader sells or transfers its business, the goodwill thereof, or goods or property forming part of such business, except in the ordinary course of business or for securing the payment of a debt, that trader is required to publish a notice to that effect, PetroSA has published any section 34 notice when it leased its assets to the SA National Petroleum Company under the lease and assigned model; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NO5482E

★754. Mr S G Vilakazi (DA) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

Following the investigation he initiated into the .ZA Domain Name Authority board, what (a) total amount has been overpaid to the members of the .ZA Domain Name Authority board and (b) steps has he instituted to recover the monies? NO5483E

★755. Mr S G Vilakazi (DA) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

Since he assumed office, what (a) progress has been made to stabilise the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) and (b) has been the measurable improvements in the capacity of the SITA? NO5484E

★756. Ms T K Bodlani (DA) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

What are the full details of the intervention steps that he took regarding the alleged failure of the SA Broadcasting Corporation to adhere to the regulations of the Public Finance Management Act, Act 1 of 1999, in applying for funding of local government election coverage? NO5485E

★757. Ms T K Bodlani (DA) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

Whether he has received any preliminary findings of the investigation of the Special Investigating Unit into the controversial business breakfast deals between the SA Broadcasting Corporation and the TNA Media (Pty) Ltd, publisher of the now defunct *The New Age* newspaper; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? NO5486E

★758. Mnr H C C Krüger (DA) vra die Minister van Landbou:

Met verwysing na die SA Weerdiens se seisoenale klimaatvooruitsig van 31 Augustus 2026 wat teen die negatiewe impak van *El Niño* waarsku, watter moontlike strategieë het sy departement ingestel se om boere te ondersteun indien hoë temperature en lae reënval 'n ernstige uitdaging word? NO5487A

(*Translation*):

[Mr H C C Krüger (DA) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:†

With reference to the SA Weather Service's seasonal climate forecast of 31 August 2026 which warned of the negative impact of *El Niño*, what strategic intervention plans has his department implemented to support farmers in respect of the serious threats of high temperatures and low rainfall? NO5487E]

★759. Mnr H C C Krüger (DA) vra die Minister van Landbou:

Met verwysing na sy onlangse besoek aan China waartydens 'n ooreenkoms vir die uitvoer van kersies vanaf die Republiek na China gesluit is, (a) watter verdere handels- en marktoegangsgeleenthede vir die Republiek se landbouprodukte tydens die besoek bespreek is en (b) wat die potensiaal is wat die Chinese mark vir Suid-Afrikaanse boere en landbou-uitvoerders inhou? NO5488A

(Translation):

[Mr H C C Krüger (DA) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:†

With reference to his recent visit to China where an agreement was reached regarding the export of cherries from the Republic to China, what (a) further trade opportunities for agricultural products from the Republic were discussed during the visit and (b) is the potential of the Chinese market for South African farmers and/or agricultural exporters? NO5488E]

★760. Dr M A Maimane (BOSA) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

(1) What measures have been implemented by her department since she assumed office to address persistent and unjustifiable pay disparities in the Republic;

(2) what are the details of appropriate legislative mechanisms that she intends to promote to ensure greater fairness, transparency and accountability in the Republic's remuneration dispensation?

NO5489E

★761. Dr M A Maimane (BOSA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

What (a) is the combined estimated capital value of the public-private partnership (PPP) projects that are currently in the Government's pipeline, which are expected to reach financial close in the 2026-27 financial year and (b) are the details of the department and/or municipality that is responsible for the PPP with the highest capital value? NO5490E

★762. Mrs N L Hlazo-Webster (BOSA) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

What total number of (a) young South Africans entered the formal labour market in the past five financial years as a result of government employment programmes and (b) the specified young people remain employed to date?

NO5491E

★763. Mrs N L Hlazo-Webster (BOSA) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

What total amount (a) was collected by the Universal Service and Access Fund in the past five financial years and (b) remains unspent?

NO5492E

★764. Mr S M Gana (Rise Mzansi) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

Given the new tariff increases applied for by Eskom, (a) by what date is it anticipated that South Africans would see a below-inflation increase to electricity prices and (b) how will the proposed increase in free basic electricity allowances to low-income households be funded?

NO5493E

★765. Mr S M Gana (Rise Mzansi) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

(1) Whether, given the prevalence of problem gambling and gambling addiction in the Republic, he intends to put mechanisms in place to curb the gambling and betting vouchers bought through mobile network providers; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) what safeguards does his department require from mobile network providers to ensure that minors are not able to access such vouchers?

NO5494E

★766. Dr L W Mahlatsi (UAT) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:

(1) Whether, considering that the National Empowerment Fund (NEF) application requirements present significant challenges for entities such as Abalimi Besivuno Co-operative communal farmers, although land access is secured, he intends to conduct an oversight visit to the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality in Mpumalanga to better understand the situation and explore possible interventions; if not, why not; if so, on what date(s);

(2) whether his department has a grant programme, rather than loan facilities, that could assist co-operatives; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NO5495E

★767. Ms O M C Maotwe (EFF) to ask Minister of Finance:

Whether he has presented any proposal to the President of the Republic, Mr M C Ramaphosa, to do away with the unlisted investment portfolio of the Public Investment Corporation; if not, why not; if so, (a) on what date was the proposal presented and (b) what was the agreed way forward? NO5496E

★768. Mrs E N Ntlangwini (EFF) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources:

Whether his department has conducted an audit of abandoned mines that cause acid mine drainages in the Republic; if not, why not; if so, what (a) is the current total number of abandoned mines in the Republic and (b) steps has he taken to hold accountable the mining companies responsible for acid mine drainages? NO5499E

★769. Mrs E N Ntlangwini (EFF) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources:

Whether he has been informed of the tailings dam collapse at Samancor Dikwena Chrome Mine which has cut access to nearby mine shafts, swept away vehicles and knocked down Eskom power lines; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what (a) has he found are the underlying causes of the collapse and (b) steps has he taken to ensure that Samancor Dikwena and other mines take responsibility for maintaining tailings storage facilities? NO5500E

★770. Mr M N Paulsen (EFF) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

Whether his department has conducted an assessment of the electricity security of the Republic in the next five years; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details of the (a) identified risks and (b) measures his department has implemented to mitigate the specified risks? NO5501E

★771. Mr M N Paulsen (EFF) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

Whether, with reference to his reply to question 4209 on 7 September 2025, wherein he stated that the Electricity Pricing Policy was undergoing review and would have been gazetted on 28 August 2026 to solicit public inputs in an effort to curb the continued increases in electricity tariffs and the financial pressure such increases place on low-income households, the Electricity Pricing Policy is ready for implementation; if not, why not; if so, what is the time frame in this regard? NO5502E

★772. Ms T J Mokwele (EFF) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

What (a) are the reasons that the North West, which produces over 70% of the world's platinum, has the lowest labour absorption rate in the Republic at about 31,6%, and (b) steps has she taken to engage mining companies in the specified province and throughout the Republic to absorb young persons and thereby contribute in the efforts to reduce unemployment? NO5503E

★773. Ms T J Mokwele (EFF) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

Whether, given that the expanded unemployment rate for women and youth in the North West is about 65%, her department has put in place specific employment programmes to assist women and youth in rural wards such as Seshibitswe, Montsana and other parts of the Moses Kotane Local Municipality; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the specific details of such programmes? NO5504E

★774. Ms L H Arries (EFF) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:

Whether his department has conducted an audit to determine the total number of animals that were culled due to the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) since its outbreak in 2025; if not, why not; if so, what (a) is the total number of animals that have been culled by communal farmers and (b) steps has he taken to compensate farmers who lost their livestock due to FMD? NO5505E

★775. Ms L H Arries (EFF) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:

Since he assumed office, what suite of support schemes has he put in place to support small-scale farmers in the former homelands, who have access to land but have no capital for infrastructure and production inputs? NO5506E

★776. Inkosi R N Cebekhulu (IFP) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:

With the 2026-27 *El Niño* already bringing reduced rainfall and the prospect of crop failures, livestock losses, water restrictions and increased pests and diseases, what contingency measures has his department put in place to protect particularly small-scale and/or emerging farmers who lack the resources to implement costly measures to adapt to the *El Niño* climate? NO5509E

★777. Mr N M Hadebe (IFP) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Given that the National Treasury has since released the equitable shares that it withheld subject to conditions that municipalities must meet, what steps has he taken to ensure that the specified conditions are supportive and/or corrective rather than punitive? NO5510E

★778. Ms N H Mhlongo (IFP) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources:

With reference to the recent petrol price increase of R1,34 per litre and diesel price increase of more than R3 per litre, largely due to international oil prices, supply constraints and geopolitical tensions, what new measures has his department considered to reduce the vulnerability of South African consumers and businesses to the external shocks, particularly given the significant impact of fuel prices on the cost of transport, food and other essential goods? NO5511E

★779. Mr L D Selepe (MK) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources:

What legal measures and/or protections has his department put in place to protect emerging mining companies from anti-competitive conduct by larger and more established mining houses? NO5512E

★780. Mr L D Selepe (MK) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources:

Since he assumed office as the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources, what total number of (a) genuinely black-owned mining companies have been established and/or transformed through departmental programmes and policies and (b) the specified mining companies have successfully progressed from emerging or junior mining operations into sustainable, commercially viable mining businesses? NO5513E

★781. Mr B M Mkongi (MK) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:

Noting that households, particularly poor and working-class households, continue to face rising food prices despite the substantial agricultural production capacity of the Republic, what (a) measures has his department implemented to strengthen domestic food production and thereby reduce the vulnerability of consumers to excessive food-price increases and (b) assessment has his department made of the impact of agricultural input costs on the prices ultimately paid by consumers? NO5515E

★782. Mr K B Madlala (MK) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:

Noting that many smallholder and emerging black farmers receive land but struggle to become commercially sustainable because of inadequate finance, infrastructure, extension services, access to markets and reliable water, what (a) total number of beneficiaries of the agricultural support programmes of his department became commercially sustainable in the past three financial years and (b) mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that government support translates into sustainable farming enterprises rather than continued dependence on state assistance? NO5516E

★783. Mr K B Madlala (MK) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:

Given that the Government has repeatedly committed to transform the agricultural value chain, yet small and emerging farmers continue to experience difficulties in accessing affordable finance and securing reliable markets, while large established enterprises retain significant market power, what (a) concrete interventions has his department made to ensure that emerging farmers obtain equitable access to finance and (b) measurable targets will he utilise to determine whether the agricultural value chain is genuinely being transformed? NO5517E

★784. Mr M Manyi (MK) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources:

Whether, following his department's failure to adequately defend the Mining Charter in court, where its binding regulatory character was effectively weakened by its subsequent treatment as a policy instrument which has created further uncertainty in the sector, he accepts any responsibility for the failure to properly defend and implement the Mining Charter; if not, why not; if so, what concrete measures will he implement to restore a credible and enforceable framework that guarantees meaningful ownership, participation and economic benefits for historically disadvantaged South Africans and/or mining-affected communities? NO5518E

★785. Mr M Manyi (MK) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources:

Given that illegal mining continues to cause significant damage to communities, the environment and the fiscus, while many abandoned and derelict mines remain a public liability, what (a) is his department's current assessment of the total financial cost of abandoned and/or derelict mines and (b) total amount has been recovered from mining companies for rehabilitation? NO5519E

★786. Mr A T Themba (MK) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

With reference to the transformation and land restitution mandate of the SA Forestry Company (Ltd) (SAFCOL), and beyond the 10,49% transfer of the Singisi Forest that has been widely reported, what total percentage of SAFCOL's total plantation area has been transferred to community ownership or community trusts and/or Communal Property Associations through (a) land claims and (b) equity partnerships from 1 January 2020 up to the latest specified date for which information is available?

NW5520E

★787. Mr A T Themba (MK) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

What (a) total number of plantation hectares is under the management of the SA Forestry Company (Ltd) (SAFCOL) and (b) are the specific targets set by his department and/or SAFCOL for the total percentage of hectares to be transferred to community ownership by 2030, in line with the Forest Sector Code and National Development Plan? NO5521E

★788. Mr S P Mkhize (MK) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

In light of his department’s proposal to invest around R625 million to modernise the ambient air-quality monitoring network in the Republic, including the proposed transfer of operational responsibility to the SA Weather Service, (a) what specific measures will be implemented to ensure that the investment results in reliable, continuous and publicly accessible air-quality data, particularly in the priority areas and (b) how does his department intend to ensure that communities living in areas affected by industrial and mining pollution are adequately protected while the monitoring network is upgraded? NO5522E

★789. Mr S P Mkhize (MK) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

In light of the fact that the Republic generates more than 360 000 tonnes of electronic waste annually while only a small proportion is formally recycled, and given the recent expansion of e-waste collection points of his department, what steps has he taken to ensure that (a) e-waste collection and recycling infrastructure is expanded to underserved and rural communities, where residents may have limited access to formal recycling facilities and (b) the extended producer responsibility system delivers sustainable economic opportunities for local small-, medium-, and micro enterprises, particularly young people, and thereby prevent hazardous electronic waste from being illegally dumped and/or disposed of in landfills?

NO5523E

★790. Ms H H Mbele (MK) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

What total number of (a) jobs does her department estimate to be at risk of displacement by Artificial Intelligence and automation in the next five years and (b) new jobs are expected to be created through the specified technologies? NO5524E

★791. Ms H H Mbele (MK) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

What (a) total number of new jobs has her department targeted for creation as a result of its employment and skills programmes in the next five years and (b) are the details of the budget that has been set aside for the specified programmes? NO5525E

★792. Mr W Q Ngobese (MK) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

What specific measurable targets has his department set for (a) reducing the cost of data and (b) increasing meaningful internet access among low-income and rural households? NO5527E

★793. Mr W Q Ngobese (MK) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

What (a) concrete measures has his department implemented to ensure that the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) becomes a reliable, secure and cost-effective digital backbone for the State and (b) accountability measures has he put in place for the SITA Board to curb failure to meet performance targets? NO5528E

★794. Mr A Nchabeleng (MK) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

What is the (a) average percentage increase in the electricity cost borne by households in the past three financial years and (b) projected electricity increase for the next three years? NO5529E

★795. Mr A Nchabeleng (MK) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

What (a) is the highest total amount in municipal debt that is owed to Eskom by a municipality and (b) enforcement measures and/or deadlines have been imposed on the specified municipality to ensure payment of both their historical debt and current electricity consumption? NO5530E

★796. Mr M S Mbatha (MK) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

In view of the fact that the Republic’s economic growth and industrial development is dependent on reliable and affordable electricity, what (a) projects and/or technologies will provide the additional quantity of megawatts generation capacity that his department has planned to bring onto the grid by 2030 and (b) is the expected commercial operation date for each major project? NO5531E

★797. Mr M S Mbatha (MK) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

Despite the improvement in electricity availability, what (a) total number of households are currently affected by load reduction and an unreliable supply and (b) firm deadline has been issued to each specified affected municipality by which load reduction will be eliminated? NO5532E

★798. Mr D D D van Rooyen (MK) to ask the Minister of Finance:

In view of the South African economy that continues to grow at a rate that is insufficient to make a substantial impact on unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, what (a) annual economic growth rate does the National Treasury consider necessary to achieve a significant reduction in unemployment and (b) specific fiscal interventions and measurable targets have been adopted to achieve the net number of new jobs that the Government expects the economy to create in the next three financial years? NO5533E

★799. Mr D D D van Rooyen (MK) to ask the Minister of Finance:

In view of the increasing portion of government revenue that has been absorbed by servicing public debt rather than being available for infrastructure and essential services, (a) what is the projected annual Rand cost amount to service the debt-to-GDP ratio of the National Treasury for each of the next three financial years and (b) by what total amount does the National Treasury expect debt-service costs to decline in that period? NO5534E

★800. Mr S G Mwali (MK) to ask the Minister of Finance:

In view of the increasing pressure faced by taxpayers, what (a) portion of the total amount of tax revenue is expected to be collected from individuals and households in the 2026-27 financial year and (b) measurable target has been implemented to reduce the tax burden on low and middle-income households in the next three years? NO5535E

★801. Mr S G Mwali (MK) to ask the Minister of Finance:

What (a) is the Rand value of the expenditure that the National Treasury has identified for elimination, reduction and/or reprioritisation because it represents waste or poor value for money and (b) are the specified annual savings targets for the specified departments and/or programmes from which the savings will be realised? NO5536E

★802. Mr V A Nkosi (ANC) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

Following environmental assessments that indicated that the planned 70 MW wind farm at Komati was not feasible, what alternative (a) renewable energy capacity and (b) off-site allocations have been finalised to offset the energy loss? NO5537E

QUESTIONS TRANSFERRED FROM WRITTEN TO ORAL REPLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 146(1)

★**803. Mr K J Mileham (DA) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:** ***[Written question 4004]***

(1) Whether Eskom appointed a certain company (name furnished) and/or any other service provider to conduct a forensic investigation relating to diesel procurement, storage contracts, advance payments and/or tender MWP2197GX; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details of the (a) appointment, including the date, scope and contract value, (b) receipt of any draft and/or final report, including the date received and the Eskom official and/or structure to which it was submitted and (c) referral of the report and/or related material to any external legal adviser; if not, what is the position in each case; if so, what are the relevant details in each case;

(2) whether Eskom has issued preservation instructions in respect of SAP, payment, procurement, email, Teams, Board, forensic, system change-log, user and chain-of-custody records relating to the specified tender; if not, what legal basis is relied upon for withholding such material; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) whether the forensic report and related material, including annexures where applicable, will be made available to Parliament; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? NO3590E

★**804. Mr A G Bateman (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:** ***[Written question 4225]***

(1) With reference to his reply to question 364 on 4 March 2026, regarding the actions from the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) following the Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of Corruption at the Public Investment Corporation (PIC), also known as the Mpati Commission, what are the (a) reasons for the delays in finalising key regulatory actions, including debarment proceedings, and (b) specific timelines for the completion of all outstanding enforcement actions arising from the specified Commission's findings;

(2) (a) what total number of investigations have been initiated by the FSCA arising from the Mpati Commission, and (b) in respect of each specified investigation, (i) what is the nature of the alleged misconduct, (ii) on what date was the investigation initiated and (iii) what is the current status and/or final outcome;

(3) what (a) total number of matters arising from the Mpati Commission have been referred by the (i) PIC to the FSCA and (ii) FSCA to the National Prosecuting Authority and/or any other law enforcement agency, and (b) has been the outcome in each case? NO4507E

★**805. Mr A G Bateman (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:** ***[Written question 4226]***

(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to question 364 on 4 March 2026, regarding the actions from the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) following the Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of Corruption at the Public Investment Corporation (PIC), also known as the Mpati Commission, the FSCA has fully exercised its existing enforcement powers under current financial sector legislation in relation to persons and/or entities implicated in the Mpati Commission; if not, (a) which powers have not been utilised and (b) what are the reasons for relying on prospective reforms such as the Conduct of Financial Institutions Bill rather than taking action under existing laws; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) what is meant by the statement from the FSCA that it has undertaken intensified supervisory monitoring of the PIC, and in this regard, what (a) specific supervisory actions have been undertaken, (b) measurable findings and/or outcomes have resulted from such actions and (c) enforcement and/or remedial steps have been taken as a consequence;

(3) whether the findings arising from such supervisory monitoring have been shared with affected asset owners, including the Government Employees Pension Fund and other public funds; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(4) whether any officials within the FSCA and/or any other relevant institutions have been held accountable for delays and/or failures to act on the findings of the Mpati Commission; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(5) whether any (a) internal or (b) external review has been conducted to assess the effectiveness of the FSCA’s response to the Mpati Commission six years after the release of its report; if not, why not; if so, what were the findings and recommendations of the specified report? NO4508E

★**806. Mrs W R Alexander (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:** ***[Written question 4245]***

Given that the Public Investment Corporation (PIC) will reportedly hold approximately 49,3%, a minority position, in an unlisted company controlled by the continuing management shareholders, (a) what contractual protections has the PIC secured in terms of (i) board representation, (ii) reserved matters and/or veto rights and (iii) anti-dilution protection exit mechanisms, including any (aa) put option, (bb) drag and/or tag rights, or agreed liquidity event and (cc) its time horizon and for what period the PIC's capital is locked in and (b) how will the Government Employees Pension Fund realise value from the specified investment if no exit event occurs? NO4527E

★**807. Mr A G Bateman (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:** ***[Written question 4391]***

(1) Whether, with reference to the construction contract for the Ga-Rankuwa Shopping Centre redevelopment that has been awarded to a certain company (name and details furnished), he will furnish Mr A G Bateman with the reasons that the specified company was selected; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether he and/or the Public Investment Corporation (PIC) has been informed of any (a) irregularity, (b) deviation from procurement policy and (c) departure from the approved procurement process in relation to the awarding of the contract or any subsequent variations; if not, what is the position in each case; if so, what are the full, relevant details in each case;

(3) whether he and/or the PIC has been informed of any communication, representation or attempt by any person outside the formal governance structures of the PIC to influence the awarding of the contract or any subsequent variations; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the full, relevant details;

(4) whether any member of the Board, executive management, bid evaluation committee and/or bid adjudication committee (a) declared a conflict of interest and/or (b) recused themselves; if not, what is the position in each case; if so, what are the full, relevant details in each case;

(5) whether any complaints, objections, internal reports, forensic investigations and/or audits have been conducted into the awarding of the contract and/or any subsequent variations; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the full, relevant details?

NO4724E

★**808. Mr A G Bateman (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:** ***[Written question 4647]***

Whether he will make the PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) investigative report into the Acapulco transaction available to the public; if not, why not; if so, what were the (a) findings and (b) recommendations of the PwC report?

NO4977E

★**809. Mr A G Bateman (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:** ***[Written question 4648]***

(1) With reference to the investments of the Public Investment Corporation (PIC) in entities associated with a certain company (name furnished) and the subsequent settlement of related claims, what was the rationale behind the approvals for the investments and settlement;

(2) whether he and/or the PIC has been informed of any external attempt to influence the specified decision; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) by whom and (b) how;

(3) whether any investigation identified possible improper influence and/or irregularity; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the findings;

(4) whether any objections and/or concerns were raised by (a) PIC officials, (b) Board members and/or (c) advisers; if not, what is the position in each case; if so, what are the relevant details in each case;

(5) whether there were any departures from (a) normal procedures, (b) conflict of interest regulations and/or (c) guidelines on recusals; if not, what is the position in each case; if so, what are the relevant details in each case? NO4978E

★810. Mr A G Bateman (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance: *[Written question 4845]*

Whether, with reference to the findings of the Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of Corruption at the Public Investment Corporation (PIC), also known as the Mpati Commission, concerning the investment of the PIC in a certain company (name furnished), he will furnish Mr A G Bateman with the (a) implementation status of each recommendation relating to the specified investment, where implemented and the date thereof, (b) relevant details of which recommendations remain outstanding and, in each case, (i) the reason for this and (ii) by what date implementation is expected, (c) relevant details and outcomes of any disciplinary proceedings arising from the findings of the Mpati Commission, (d) relevant details of any referrals to law-enforcement and/or regulatory authorities, including the (i) authority, (ii) date and (iii) current status and (e) steps taken to recover losses arising from the investment; if not, why not, in each case; if so, what are the relevant details in each case? NO5186E

★811. Mr A G Bateman (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:*[Written question 4847]*

(1) Whether the Public Investment Corporation, directly or indirectly, through any fund, special purpose vehicle, managed fund, co-investment, debt instrument, preference share, guarantee and/or any other financing arrangement has ever provided funding and/or acquired any financial interest in (a) a certain company (name furnished), (b) any of its subsidiaries and/or (iii) affiliates and/or related entities; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) what are the relevant details of the (a) dates, (b) total amounts, (c) instruments, (d) approvals and (e) current monetary value of each investment? NO5188E

★812. Mr K J Mileham (DA) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy: ***[Written question 4851]***

With reference to lifestyle audits in complex cases and/or investigations of undeclared wealth where external service providers and/or forensic investigators had been contracted in the past five years, what (a) is the total number of such cases in each of the past five years, (b) were the costs incurred in each of the past five years, (c) are the names of the service providers contracted in each case, (d) are the dates on which each external service provider and/or forensic investigator was contracted, (e) specific matters was each service provider contracted to probe and (f) are the relevant details of the disciplinary action and/or criminal outcomes of each case? NO5193E

★813. Mr K J Mileham (DA) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy: ***[Written question 4852]***

Whether, with reference to the Advisory Note of the Public Service Commission of June 2026 which stated that public servants must not participate in study groups that are not formally authorised through official governmental processes, any officials in his department participated in subsequent authorised study group meetings; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what (a) were the dates of the meetings and (b) are the relevant details of the items that were discussed in the specified meetings? NO5194E

★814. Mr E V Baptie (DA) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy: ***[Written question 4854]***

(1) In light of reports that Eskom has concluded public consultations in the Eastern Cape regarding the proposed Thyspunt Nuclear Power Station near St Francis Bay and Jeffreys Bay and further noting concerns relating to the environmental impact, public participation, economic viability and infrastructure readiness, what are the relevant details of the nuclear technology proposed for the specified power station, including (a) associated safety and risk profiles, (b) provincial disaster preparedness and emergency response plans and (c) assessments that have been conducted on evacuation readiness and infrastructure capacity in surrounding areas;

(2) what (a) is the estimated total cost of the project and proposed funding model, (b) analysis has been conducted on the potential impact on electricity tariffs and (c) comparative assessments exist between nuclear energy and alternative energy sources? NO5196E

★815. Mr J R B Lorimer (DA) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources: ***[Written question 4871]***

With reference to lifestyle audits in complex cases and/or investigations of undeclared wealth where external service providers and/or forensic investigators had been contracted in the past five years, what (a) is the total number of such cases in each of the past five years, (b) were the costs incurred in each of the past five years, (c) are the names of the service providers contracted in each case, (d) are the dates on which each external service provider and/or forensic investigator was contracted, (e) specific matters was each service provider contracted to probe and (f) are the relevant details of the disciplinary action and/or criminal outcomes of each case? NO5214E

★816. Mr J R B Lorimer (DA) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources: ***[Written question 4872]***

Whether, with reference to the Advisory Note of the Public Service Commission of June 2026 which stated that public servants must not participate in study groups that are not formally authorised through official governmental processes, any officials in his department participated in subsequent authorised study group meetings; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what (a) were the dates of the meetings and (b) are the relevant details of the items that were discussed in the specified meetings? NO5215E