

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER

NOTE:

1. † Indicates translated version of the question.
 2. ★ Indicates a question for oral reply.
 3. ■ Indicates a written question transferred for oral reply in terms of **Rule 231**.
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PEACE AND SECURITY

Cluster 1B

Minister of Correctional Services 241, 242, 243, 244

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY**THURSDAY, 15 MAY 2025***State patients in Correctional Centres***★127. Mr V Gericke (Western Cape: EFF) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

- (1) How many state patients are currently admitted in Correctional Services healthcare facilities across the country;
- (2) whether his department has been adequately equipped to deal with such patients effectively; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what plans are in place to relocate them to relevant institutions for (a) accommodation and (b) treatment?

CO623E

*Overcrowding crisis in prisons***★128. Mr P J Swart (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

- (a) What urgent plans has his department implemented to address the persistent overcrowding crisis in prisons that is leading to alarming numbers of escapes, particularly at facilities that exceed 150% of approved capacity and (b) what disciplinary actions have been taken against any negligent officials?

CO624E

*Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services***★129. Mr O J Mokae (Northern Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

- (1) What (a) measures and (b) interventions his department has undertaken to strengthen the (i) independence and (ii) resourcing of the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services;
- (2) whether any concrete and/or adequate mechanisms are in place to ensure that (a) the investigative arm of such inspectorate is enhanced and (b) its recommendations are binding; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details in each case?

CO625E

*Alleged corruption at correctional facilities***★130. Mr M Billy (KwaZulu-Natal: DA) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

- (1) What urgent actions has his department taken to (a) investigate and (b) stop the alleged corruption at the Westville Correctional Facility in Durban and the New Prison in Pietermaritzburg regarding wealthy inmates who are bribing officials to enjoy special privileges (details furnished);
- (2) whether he will commit to publicly releasing the findings of such investigations; if not, why not?

CO626E

*Updating parole policy***★131. Mr N Gotsell (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

Whether, given the serious deficiencies that have been flagged by the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services (details furnished), he will provide a detailed timeline for the (a) update and (b) reform of the parole policy, including those who will be involved in (i) drafting, (ii) reviewing and (iii) implementation of the reforms to ensure that vulnerable communities are no longer left at the mercy of a broken system; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO627E

*Protection of female inmates***★132. Ms H S Boshoff (Mpumalanga: DA) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

In light of the national crisis of gender-based violence, what targeted interventions has his department implemented to protect female inmates from (a) sexual violence by officials and (b) secondary victimisation in correctional facilities? CO628E

*Critical staff vacancies***★133. Dr I S Scheurkogel (Free State: DA) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

What strategies are in place to fill critical staff vacancies, particularly in the (a) healthcare and (b) engineering roles within the correctional facilities, as such vacancies compromise the (i) delivery of essential services and (ii) maintenance of facilities (details furnished)? CO629E

*Training of correctional officers***★134. Ms J S Mananiso (Gauteng: ANC) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

- (1) Whether correctional officers are adequately trained to deal with security situations within the correctional centres; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) what lessons have been learnt from the recent incident where officials allegedly assaulted and killed an inmate? CO630E

*Recidivism rate within correctional system***★135. Adv Inkosi M Nonkonyana (Eastern Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

- (1) (a) What is the current recidivism rate within the correctional system and (b) how this impact the quality of rehabilitation programmes offenders undergo in correctional centres;
- (2) whether his department has an Anti-Gang Strategy in place; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO631E

*Cancellation notice***★136. Mr E P Noe (Free State: ANC) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

- (1) Whether he will provide an update following the cancellation notice that was issued to the Bloemfontein Correctional Centre contracts by his predecessor in May 2023; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether the relevant (a) procedures and (b) processes are completed in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether South Africa still has private prisons; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? CO632E

*Overcrowding in prisons***★137. Ms O D Medupe (North West: ANC) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

- (1) Whether he has any plans to immediately address overcrowding in prisons; if not, why not; if so, (a) what plans and (b) what are the further relevant details;
- (2) whether he had any engagements with the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure to address the dilapidating conditions of prisons, partly as the result of overcrowding; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO633E

*Rehabilitation/reintegration of offenders***★138. Mr S A Zulu (Mpumalanga: MKP) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

What (a) initiatives and/or (b) programmes his department has in place to support the (i) rehabilitation and (ii) reintegration of offenders into society, particularly those who have completed their sentences and are preparing for release? CO634E

*Curbing smuggling of contraband***★139. Mr S A Zulu (Mpumalanga: MKP) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

- (a) What strategies have been employed to curb the smuggling of contraband in correctional facilities, given the alleged numerous confiscated items in the past year (details furnished) and
- (b) how is his department addressing the involvement of staff members in facilitating such illegal activities? CO635E

*Parole system reforms***★140. Mr S A Zulu (Mpumalanga: MKP) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

- (a) What is the current status of (i) implementing the Correctional Services Amendment Act, 2023 (Act No. 14 of 2023) reforms, including the prohibition of detaining prisoners beyond facility capacity and (ii) the enhancement of parole systems reforms and (b) how his

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department is ensuring compliance with the new regulations to address issues such as (i) overcrowding and (ii) inadequate oversight? CO636E

Prioritisation of prison services

★141. Mr H J Van den Berg (Northern Cape: FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:

- (1) Whether he has any prioritisations that may apply to prison services as a result of the Medium-Term Development Plan of 2024-29; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether he has already concluded a performance agreement with the President; if not, why not; if so, what are some of the details that are contained therein? CO637E

Question transferred from written to oral reply in terms of Rule 231:

Death of prisoners

■11. Mr J H P Britz (Eastern Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services: [Written question No 496]

(a) How many (i) prisoners who died in incarceration in South African prisons during the period 1 January to 31 December 2024 and (ii) of such deaths were as a result of (aa) natural and (bb) unnatural causes, (b) how many complaints were received against officials at the prisons, (c) how many prison officials were suspended on suspicion of being the cause of death of a prisoner, (d) how many disciplinary actions have been conducted during the said period, (e) how many (i) officials and (ii) prisoners were arrested on charges of crimes that have been committed against prisoners and (f) how many officials have been (i) dismissed for reasons that are relating to such crimes and (ii) convicted in courts of law on charges of such crimes against prisoners? CW560E