

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER

NOTE:

- 1. † Indicates translated version of the question.
- 2. ★ Indicates a question for oral reply.

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY**TUESDAY, 26 MAY 2026***Fraudulent issuing of IDs***★135. Mr S A Zulu (Mpumalanga: MKP) to ask the Minister of Home Affairs:**

In light of the Special Investigating Unit's findings in exposing entrenched fraud and corruption in the issuing of identity documents and permits within Home Affairs while undermining the integrity of the National Population Register and enabling organised criminal networks, (a) how many officials have been arrested, dismissed and successfully prosecuted for such offences since 1 January 2025, (b) what consequence management has been applied against implicated senior managers and (c) what measurable progress has been made in rolling out biometric verification across all 412 Home Affairs offices to decisively close gaps that continue to enable this systemic abuse?

CO617E

*Identity document backlog***★136. Mr S A Zulu (Mpumalanga: MKP) to ask the Minister of Home Affairs:**

What urgent time-bound interventions have been implemented since 1 January 2026 to decisively eliminate a backlog that is exceeding 500 000 identity document (ID) applications, with first-time applicants waiting up to 12 months for their IDs (details furnished), (a) what is the current average processing time for first-time ID applications as of 30 April 2026 and (b) why his department failed to meet its own service delivery standards on such a fundamental constitutional function?

CO618E

*SA visa waivers***★137. Mr S A Zulu (Mpumalanga: MKP) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:**

(a) What concrete diplomatic outcomes his department secured since 1 January 2025 to achieve reciprocal visa waivers with key partners in Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (Brics) and the European Union, given that South African passport holders still require visas for over 100 countries while citizens of many of such countries enjoy visa-free access into South Africa (details furnished) and (b) which countries have formally agreed and/or are at an advanced stage of concluding such arrangements as of 30 May 2026?

CO619E

*Visa processing delays***★138. Mr S A Zulu (Mpumalanga: MKP) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:**

(a) What urgent measurable interventions have been implemented since 1 January 2026 to resolve visa processing delays of 6 to 8 weeks for key source markets such as India, China and Nigeria that have reportedly cost South Africa an estimated R7 billion in lost tourism

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revenue in 2025 (details furnished) and (b) what is the current average turnaround time for electronic visa applications as of 30 April 2026? CO620E

Concerns regarding Zimbabwean Bill

★139. Mr M Billy (KwaZulu-Natal: DA) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

Whether, following the President's recent visit to Zimbabwe, the Government has formally raised concerns regarding the (a) Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment Bill No. 3 of 2026 and (b) arrest of Zimbabwe's opposition leader (details furnished); if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO621E

Anti-migrant protests

★140. Mr M Billy (KwaZulu-Natal: DA) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

In light of the reports that the Government of Nigeria has formally demanded accountability from South Africa following anti-migrant protests and considering that at least 130 Nigerian nationals have requested repatriation as a result of safety concerns amid rising xenophobic tensions, (a) what urgent diplomatic steps has the Government taken to respond to Nigeria's concerns, including demands for accountability regarding violence and alleged misconduct by security authorities and (b) how is the Government ensuring the protection of foreign nationals in South Africa in line with its international obligations? CO622E

Draft Digital Identity Regulations

★141. Mr M Billy (KwaZulu-Natal: DA) to ask the Minister of Home Affairs:

With reference to the recent publication of the draft Digital Identity Regulations under the Identification Act, 1997 (Act No. 68 of 1997), (a) what are the key milestones that have been achieved by his department in advancing South Africa's transition towards a world-class Digital Identity system, (b) how will the proposed Digital Identity framework improve (i) service delivery efficiency, (ii) access to government services and (iii) prevention of identity-related crimes such as fraud, corruption and illegal immigration and (c) what progress has been made in ensuring interoperability with both public and private sector institutions to enable seamless, modern and digital-first Home Affairs system? CO623E

International relations/bilateral engagements

★142. Mr N Gotsell (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

In light of the President's priorities for the 7th Administration to build a capable developmental state grounded in constitutionalism, the rule of law and respect for human rights, what measures is his department taking to ensure that South Africa's international relations and bilateral engagements are consistently guided by such foundational democratic values when engaging with partner countries across the world? CO624E

*Bilateral engagements***★143. Mr N Gotsell (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:**

In light of South Africa's stated commitment to constitutionalism, the rule of law and the promotion of human rights as guiding principles of its foreign policy, what considerations inform the conduct of bilateral engagements with neighbouring countries in the Southern African Development Community, particularly where concerns have been raised regarding democratic governance, constitutional amendments and the treatment of political opposition?

CO625E

*Idutywa Department of Home Affairs***★144. Ms A Matshobeni (Eastern Cape: EFF) to ask the Minister of Home Affairs:**

Whether he has been informed of the ongoing service disruptions at the Idutywa Department of Home Affairs office which have persisted for approximately three months as the mobile service unit that has been deployed to the area is currently non-functional as a result of the lack of electricity; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what measures are in place to resolve issues at the said facility to ensure restoration of essential services to the community?

CO626E

*Digital services at banks***★145. Mr V Gericke (Western Cape: EFF) to ask the Minister of Home Affairs:**

In light of the rollout of digital services through partnerships with private service providers, specifically with a certain bank (details furnished), (a) what financial implications for members of the public who utilise such platforms to access his departmental services and (b) how he reconciles his personal championing of such project with the provisions of the Executive Ethics Code regarding potential and/or perceived conflicts of interest, given the allegations that a significant shareholder of the specified bank made substantial financial donations to his political party?

CO627E

*Assessment of economic loss***★146. Mr V Gericke (Western Cape: EFF) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:**

- (1) What is his latest assessment of the total economic loss to major exporters, particularly in automotive and agricultural sectors, given the imposition of steep 30% "reciprocal tariffs" on South African exports by the United States (US);
- (2) whether he has been informed of the impact of concurrent US global health funding cuts on the supply of HIV/Aids products; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what concrete steps have been taken to secure alternative markets to mitigate the loss of employment opportunities and ensure long-term viability of South African exports?

CO628E

Border Management Authority**★147. Mr H J Van den Berg (Northern Cape: FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Home Affairs:**

- (1) Whether the Border Management Authority (BMA) is now fully electronically (a) activated and (b) connected at all ports of entry; if not, why not; if so, what is the status of the (i) Enhanced Movement Control System 2.0, (ii) facial recognition system and (iii) Electronic Travel Authorisation system;
- (2) what is the current status of integration of the BMA with other entities, particularly the SA Police Service and the remaining functions of his department;
- (3) whether he will provide any available information and statistics on (a) the effectiveness of the BMA and (b) his department's border management initiatives, including (i) prevention of illegal crossings, (ii) tourist arrivals and (iii) the overall impact on national security; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO629E

Normalising/strengthening bilateral relations**★148. Mr H J Van den Berg (Northern Cape: FF Plus) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:**

- (1) What actions, policy changes, legislative adjustments, diplomatic concessions or realignments has his department implemented since 2025 to normalise and strengthen bilateral relations with the United States (US), particularly to address (a) the imposition and subsequent adjustment of punitive tariffs on South African exports, (b) public criticisms for the US administration regarding South Africa's foreign policy positions and (c) concerns that have been raised regarding certain domestic policies;
- (2) whether he will provide details of any specific deliverables or outcomes that have been achieved through 'constant engagements' delegations to the White House and bilateral mechanisms that have been referred to in recent departmental briefings; if not, why not; if so, why South Africa continues to face elevated tariffs, diplomatic friction and exclusionary treatment in multilateral forums such as aspects of the G20 process despite such efforts;
- (3) whether the Government has failed to make substantive policy changes or adjustments to normalise the relationship with the US; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what is the Government's current strategy to prevent further economic harm to the South African public, exporters and workers? CO630E

Backlog in processing asylum claims**★149. Ms J S Mananiso (Gauteng: ANC) to ask the Minister of Home Affairs:**

- (1) Whether his department is making any progress in addressing the backlog in processing asylum claims; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

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- (2) whether his department has been able to address challenges of underfunding and understaffing that are facing the Immigration Inspectorate over years which have limited its ability to locate and track undocumented individuals; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO631E

Impact of high vacancy rate

★150. Adv Inkosi M Nonkonyana (Eastern Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Home Affairs:

- (1) Whether his department is making any progress in addressing the high vacancy rate that negatively affect critical services of his department, including enduring queues and significant delays in processing identity documents, passports and permit renewals; if not, why not; if so, what progress;
- (2) whether such vacancy rate also includes the shortage of immigration officials who continue to leave borders under-protected and hinders the ability to monitor border control and cross border movement; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO632E

Addressing organised systemic corruption

★151. Ms O D Medupe (North West: ANC) to ask the Minister of Home Affairs:

Whether his department is making any progress in addressing organised systemic corruption that is involving syndicates, particularly by foreign nationals and complicit officials; if not, why not; if so, (a) what progress and (b) what measures are in place to strengthen its internal organisational capacity to detect, identify and pre-empt fraudulent issuing of passports, identity documents, visas and work, residence and study permits? CO633E

Weekend e-home affairs services

★152. Mr P Noe (Free State: ANC) to ask the Minister of Home Affairs:

Whether his department has considered rolling out weekend outreach services in addition to e-home affairs and partnerships with commercial banks as part of expanding access to his department's services by communities in rural areas; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO634E

Developing broader national plans

★153. Ms O D Medupe (North West: ANC) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

Whether his department has developed any broader national plans to gear the country to mitigate against negative consequences of the US-Israel war on Iran and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO635E

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*Trade penetration/expansion into foreign markets***★154. Mr P A Phala (Limpopo: ANC) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:**

Whether his department has developed any targeted plans to drive South Africa's trade penetration and expansion into foreign markets since the outbreak of the US trade wars; if not, why not; if so, (a) what plans and (b) how such plans are strengthening and consolidating south-to-south trade and political relations? CO636E

*Prevention of illegal immigration***★155. Ms J S Mananiso (Gauteng: ANC) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:**

Whether, in light of the nature and level of cooperation of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries that are bordering South Africa in the prevention of illegal immigration into South Africa, the management of illegal immigration is part of the security architecture of SADC; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? CO637E

*Interactions with SADC countries***★156. Adv Inkosi M Nonkonyana (Eastern Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:**

Whether, in light of persistent geo-political tensions, South Africa had any interactions with countries in the Southern African Development Community region and the entire continent regarding bolstering regional cooperation to address tensions and build a renewed emphasis to strategic reconfiguration and repositioning of the architecture of country-to-country and regional cooperation; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO638E

*Milestones achieved in advancing reforms***★157. Mr M Billy (KwaZulu-Natal: DA) to ask the Minister of Home Affairs:**

(a) What key milestones and measurable progress has his department achieved in advancing reforms such as strengthened border enforcement, increased deportations and rollout of digital systems, including the Intelligent Population Register and Digital ID in light of Cabinet's approval of the Revised White Paper on Citizenship, Immigration and Refugee Protection which represents a major overhaul of South Africa's immigration system and (b) how such reforms position South Africa to better attract investment, skilled workers and economic growth while safeguarding the integrity of the country's borders? CO639E