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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(Replies to be submitted at: ncopquestions@parliament.gov.za)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

TUESDAY, 04 AUGUST 2026

Withholding equitable share allocations

★171. Ms M Makesini (Free State: EFF) to ask the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs:

(1) Whether, in light of the Government's decision to withhold equitable share allocations from 69 financially distressed and/or non-compliant municipalities (details furnished), he will explain the constitutional rationale behind allowing equitable share suspensions to proceed, given that such punitive measure directly penalises marginalised citizens by denying their constitutional rights to basic water, sanitation, electricity and refuse removal; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) why his department has not intervened to prevent such blanket funding freezes instead of executing direct consequence management, personal financial liability and criminal prosecution against specific Mayors, Municipal Managers and Chief Financial Officers who are legally responsible for the underlying financial mismanagement and corruption? CO971E

Systemic/institutional gaps on initiation schools

★172. Mr K Ceza (Mpumalanga: EFF) to ask the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs:

(a) What specific systemic and institutional gaps have been identified by his department that allowed 58 illegal initiation schools to open, register and operate undetected by law enforcement and oversight structures, given the “preventable” tragic loss of 43 initiates during the recent winter initiation season which occurred despite the existence of the Customary Initiation Act, 2021 (Act No. 2 of 2021), and established Initiation Structures and (b) what factors contributed to the unprecedented surge to 18 fatalities in Mpumalanga that allowed it to surpass the historically high-risk provinces like the Eastern Cape with recorded 14 deaths? CO972E

Section 139 intervention

★173. Mr K Ceza (Mpumalanga: EFF) to ask the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs:

(a) What concrete, measurable measures his department has taken to ensure that section 139 intervention produces effective and tangible outcomes for the Lekwa Local Municipality, given the said municipality’s continued to experience a collapse of basic service delivery despite repeated provincial interventions, (b) on what specific date will residents of Standerton and surrounding communities receive reliable, uninterrupted water, sanitation and electricity services and (c) what specific consequence management and disciplinary actions have been

instituted against municipal officials and political office bearers who are responsible for the continued collapse of governance and service delivery in the said municipality? CO973E

Retaining specialised professionals

★174. Mr K Ceza (Mpumalanga: EFF) to ask the Minister of Public Service and Administration:

What specific financial incentives, rural allowances and career-pathing frameworks his department has introduced to attract and retain highly skilled, specialised professionals in rural and resource-constrained municipalities such as the Emakhazeni Local Municipality, in light of the Public Service Commission's warning that building a capable, ethical and developmental state depends entirely on attracting and retaining competent public servants as many rural municipalities continue to lose engineers, urban planners, chartered accountants and project managers to metropolitan municipalities and private sector, resulting in rural communities being without technical capacity that is required to deliver basic services? CO974E

Assisting struggling municipalities

★175. Mr T M Kaunda (KwaZulu-Natal: ANC) to ask the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs:

(1) Whether his department is making any progress in assisting municipalities that are struggling as a result of aging infrastructure across the country and their inability to provide the necessary infrastructure; if not, why not; if so, (a) what progress and (b) what key challenges are facing the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency (Misa);

(2) whether such challenges improve or worsen during section 139 interventions; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what are the noticeable trends and (b) what key impediments his department has identified with regard to Misa projects during section 139 interventions? CO975E

District Development Model

★176. Ms K R Molokomme (Limpopo: ANC) to ask the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs:

Whether his department is making any progress in utilising the District Development Model (DDM) as a critical intervention to (a) coordinate and (b) integrate development and streamlining budgets while mobilising the capacity and resources of government and civil society to pursue growth and development; if not, (i) why not and (ii) how are the current severe municipal capacity constraints affecting effective implementation of the DDM; if so, what are the relevant details? CO976E

Participation of traditional leadership in local government

★177. Mr B S Mabebo (North West: ANC) to ask the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs:

Whether his department is making any progress in addressing challenges that impede participation of traditional leadership in local government matters; if not, why not; if so, (a) what progress, (b) what mechanisms has he initiated since taking Office to address jurisdictional conflicts with elected ward councillors and (c) what are the further relevant details? CO977E

Overreliance on consultants

★178. Mr B S Mabebo (North West: ANC) to ask the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs:

(1) Whether his department has implemented any effective programmes to address overreliance on consultants which continues to grow and currently stands at approximately R1,61 billion; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether such programmes include assisting the 61% of municipalities that are currently utilising consultants to submit financial statements with material misstatements; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO978E

Addressing municipal capacity constraints

★179. Mr B S Mabebo (North West: ANC) to ask the Minister of Public Service and Administration:

(1) What progress is his department making in addressing the persistent constraints on municipal capacity that have left towns and communities with dire basic service delivery;

(2) whether such progress includes developing mechanisms to guide employment of skilled personnel in key positions; if not, (a) why not and (b) what are the key challenges; if so, what are the relevant details? CO979E

Addressing workplace abuse

★180. Ms K R Molokomme (Limpopo: ANC) to ask the Minister of Public Service and Administration:

(1) Whether his department is making any progress in enforcing a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of workplace abuse in the public service; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether such approach includes examining contracts that have been utilised as mechanism to vilify workers; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?
CO980E

Lifestyle audits for public servants

★181. Ms K R Molokomme (Limpopo: ANC) to ask the Minister of Public Service and Administration:

(1) Whether there has been any progress in resolving the more than 170 flagged cases for further investigation in the mandatory lifestyle audits for South African public servants as regulated by his department's Guide on Lifestyle Audits that aims to match an official's known income with lifestyle to combat corruption; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether his department is working with all provinces to ensure mandatory lifestyle audits for public servants, particularly those in senior and/or strategic positions such as supply chain and bid committees; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?
CO981E

Foreign nationals employed in public sector

★182. Mr T M Kaunda (KwaZulu-Natal: ANC) to ask the Minister of Public Service and Administration:

Whether his department is making any progress in collecting data to ensure accurate and comprehensive records of foreign nationals who are employed in the public sector; if not, why not; if so, (a) how many of those have been identified as not occupying critical occupations with longer than three years and/or permanent employment and (b) what are the further relevant details? CO982E

Successes of section 139 interventions

★183. Dr I S Scheurkogel (Free State: DA) to ask the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs:

What are his concrete plans under the existing legal framework to ensure that section 139 interventions succeed with enforceable targets, binding exit criteria and consequences for Members of Executive Councils who fail to act as such interventions are failing the very residents they are meant to protect (details furnished)? CO983E

Avoiding abuse of State resources

★184. Dr I S Scheurkogel (Free State: DA) to ask the Minister of Public Service and Administration:

What measures are being taken to prevent employees who have been disciplined and fired from applying for tenders to avoid the continued abuse of State resources (details furnished)?
CO984E

Collapse of disaster/emergency services

★185. Ms H S Boshoff (Mpumalanga: DA) to ask the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs:

(a) What assessment has his department made of the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality's ability to fulfil its statutory responsibilities in respect of disaster and emergency services in light of the apparent collapse of such services in the said municipality (details furnished) and (b) what urgent interventions will be implemented to ensure that residents are no longer placed at risk as a result of such municipality's failure to provide basic emergency response services? CO985E

Section 139 interventions

★186. Mr F J Badenhorst (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs:

Whether the current legislative framework governing section 139 interventions is no longer fit for purpose as municipalities placed under such intervention only return to financial collapse, governance failure and service delivery crises shortly after the intervention ends (details furnished)? CO986E

Reviewed White Paper

★187. Mr F J Badenhorst (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs:

(1) Whether Reviewed White Paper will be accompanied by legislative amendments that fundamentally reform section 139 by introducing measurable intervention outcomes, fixed implementation time frames, accountability for administrators and enforceable recovery plans (details furnished);

(2) whether municipalities will simply continue to fail under a different policy document? CO987E

Ghost employees

★188. Mr F J Badenhorst (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Public Service and Administration:

(a) What measures has his department implemented to ensure that departments regularly verify employee existence, attendance and payroll integrity as ghost employees continue to divert scarce public resources away from frontline service delivery and (b) what progress has been made in institutionalising such audits across the public service? CO988E

Effectiveness of lifestyle audits

★189. Mr F J Badenhorst (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Public Service and Administration:

Whether lifestyle audits are functioning as an effective anti-corruption tool rather than merely a compliance exercise based on the outcomes achieved thus far, given that they were introduced to strengthen public confidence and deter corruption among senior officials?
CO989E

Timeframes for disciplinary cases

★190. Ms H S Boshoff (Mpumalanga: DA) to ask the Minister of Public Service and Administration:

What steps his department has taken to ensure that disciplinary cases are concluded within reasonable timeframes and paid absences would not become the norm, given that lengthy precautionary suspensions and officials remaining at home on full pay while disciplinary processes drag on continue to undermine public confidence and waste public resources?
CO990E

Verification of minimum qualifications

★191. Ms H S Boshoff (Mpumalanga: DA) to ask the Minister of Public Service and Administration:

What progress has been made in verifying that senior managers and accounting officers meet the prescribed minimum qualifications, experience and competency requirements before and after appointment as effectiveness of the public service depends on appointing suitably qualified and competent leaders? CO991E

Merit/qualifications/performance for appointments

★192. Mr P J Swart (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Public Service and Administration:

What further steps will be taken by his department to ensure that merit, qualifications and performance become the overriding criteria for appointments throughout the public service as South Africans have lost confidence in many state institutions as a result that appointments are too often perceived to be influenced by political considerations rather than competence?
CO992E

Accountability for administrative failures

★193. Mr P J Swart (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs:

What concrete measures his department will implement to ensure that accountability is directed at those responsible for administrative failures, instead of allowing ordinary South

Africans to bear the consequences of poor municipal governance which results in delayed infrastructure projects and deteriorating basic services, given his commitment to the catch and clean-up campaign to root out corruption, strengthen governance and build capable municipalities (details furnished)? CO993E

Land rights for traditional leaders

★194. Mr E Nzimande (Gauteng: MKP) to ask the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs:

(1) Whether he will provide a definite undertaking and the precise timelines as to when the Government intends to undo historical colonial demarcation and reinstate customary demarcations, given the failure to address land rights, including commercial land rightfully belonging to traditional authorities and certain Amakhosi, service delivery and effective local governance (details furnished); if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether the Government will ensure that affected communities, including Amakhosi are compensated by farmers who are conducting commercial farming on the land rightfully belonging to various tribes and Amakhosi, given their land was usurped by former colonisers; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO994E

Unresolved internal disciplinary cases

★195. Mr E Nzimande (Gauteng: MKP) to ask the Minister of Public Service and Administration:

Whether he will provide the breakdown of (a) unresolved internal disciplinary cases of employees on suspension, (b) age of suspension for each case, (c) unresolved breakdown of cases at arbitration and Labour Court that are handled by lawyers and (d) the amount spent for each case as prolonged disciplinary processes involving senior managers are often assigned to consultants and/or lawyers (details furnished); if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO995E

Section 139 intervention in Mafube Local Municipality

★196. Ms T Breedt (Free State: FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs:

With reference to the Mafube Local Municipality in the Free State that has been under section 139 intervention for several years and yet continues to experience repeated withholding of its equitable share by the National Treasury as a result of non-compliance with financial and reporting requirements, resulting in the municipality being unable to pay salaries for extended periods, (a) what steps will he take to ensure that effective national oversight and support so that the said municipality will not continue to struggle with basic financial and service delivery obligations and (b) how will he address poor performance and inability of the provincial government to properly administer the said municipality? CO996E