

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**THURSDAY, 12 MARCH 2026***Recruiting/retaining skilled staff***★25. Ms D W Fienies (Northern Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Health:**

(a) What progress is his department making in addressing the critical ongoing challenges in recruiting and retaining skilled staff, particularly in rural and/or underserved districts with high turnover, low morale, poor infrastructure and failure to absorb new medical graduates and (b) what measures are in place to ensure that unemployed health professionals such as doctors and nurses are recruited to serve such areas? CO170E

*Status of medico-legal claims/cases***★26. Ms S Masumpa (Western Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Health:**

What is the current status of the (a) Special Investigating Unit's ongoing investigations into medico-legal claims against his department (details furnished) and (b) cases that were referred to the (i) National Prosecuting Authority, (ii) Legal Practice Council and (iii) Legal Practitioners Fidelity Fund? CO171E

*National Youth HIV Prevention Strategy***★27. Mr M P Sibande (Mpumalanga: ANC) to ask the Minister of Health:**

What are the challenges and successes of the National Youth HIV Prevention Strategy since its launch in June 2022 in addressing high youth HIV infections? CO172E

*Reversing of NHI***★28. Mr M F Mokwele (Limpopo: ANC) to ask the Minister of Health:**

- (1) Whether the President has taken a decision to reverse the implementation of the National Health Insurance (NHI) as allegedly reported by the media; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, how a piece of legislation that has passed through scrutiny of Parliament could just be reversed (details furnished);
- (2) whether the President has informed him of the reasons for having taken such an action; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? C173E

GBVCC challenges**★29. Ms D W Fienies (Northern Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

What measures are in place to address Gender-Based Violence Command Centre challenges, in particular those that affect significant operational, financial, staffing challenges, shortage of social workers and inadequate infrastructure for shelters that hinder its ability to support victims, including severe non-payment of service providers that is leading to service disruptions? CO174E

Drug abuse in schools**★30. Mr M Feni (Eastern Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

(a) What progress is her department making in addressing drug abuse among school children across the country, (b) what impact is drug abuse having in schools and (c) what measures are in place to draw all stakeholders to address the scourge of drug abuse in schools? CO175E

Systemic/technical challenges re-biometric enrolment**★31. Mr M P Sibande (Mpumalanga: ANC) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

What progress is her department making in addressing the (a) systemic and (b) technical challenges relating to biometric enrolment and the need for better integration between the Improved Grant Application System and other systems which continue to cause delays in grant processing and verification? CO176E

Provision of humanitarian relief/psychosocial support**★32. Mr M F Mokwele (Limpopo: ANC) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

(a) What progress her department has made primarily through the SA Social Security Agency in providing immediate humanitarian relief and psychosocial support to flood-affected communities in (i) Limpopo, (ii) Mpumalanga and (iii) KwaZulu-Natal and (b) what role is her department playing in collaboration with other state agencies to support the affected communities, including ensuring that (i) affected learners continue with their education and (ii) those living in shelters receive continuous government support? CO177E

Delays in HPCSA registration**★33. Ms J M Adriaanse (North West: DA) to ask the Minister of Health:**

Whether his department has been informed of the alleged delays in the registration of healthcare practitioners with the Health Professional Council of South Africa (HPCSA) which have resulted in qualified health practitioners been unable to practise for extended periods as reported in the media; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what steps have been taken to address registration backlogs and (b) when all outstanding applications expected to be finalised? CO178E

*Underspending/shortfalls in infrastructure grants/appointments***★34. Ms J M Adriaanse (North West: DA) to ask the Minister of Health:**

- (1) Whether there has been any significant underspending of infrastructure grants and shortfalls in the appointment of nurses in Mpumalanga in the 2025/26 financial year as hospitals continue to deteriorate (details furnished); if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether his department has invoked any formal intervention mechanisms in terms of the Division of Revenue Act, 2025 (Act No. 2 of 2025), and/or section 100 of the Constitution to address such underspending and staffing challenges; if not, why not; if so, (a) what further steps have been taken to ensure full utilisation of the allocated funds and filling of approved nursing positions? CO179E

*Social work vacancies***★35. Ms J M Adriaanse (North West: DA) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

Whether her department is experiencing any shortages in social worker positions that fall below its stated staffing targets; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what is her department's current plan to fill such vacancies and (b) what specific measures are being implemented to address shortages in rural and high-need areas? CO180E

*Fraud/misuse of SASSA grants***★36. Ms J M Adriaanse (North West: DA) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

Whether any instances of fraud and/or misuse of grants have been identified within the social grant system, including the Social Relief of Distress (SRD) applications; if so, what (a) technological and (b) administrative measures are in place by the SA Social Security Agency to strengthen eligibility verification and prevent fraud? CO181E

*Underspending in public health sector***★37. Mr P J Swart (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Health:**

Whether any underspending was recorded within the public health sector in the latest available financial reporting period; if so, (a) how much was a total underspending as disaggregated in each programme and province, (b) how many funded yet vacant critical positions, including doctors, nurses and specialists currently exist and (c) what corrective measures have been implemented to ensure that appropriated funds are fully and/or efficiently utilised to improve frontline service delivery? CO182E

*Underspending***★38. Mr P J Swart (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

Whether her department recorded any underspending in (a) social assistance transfers, (b) subsidies to non-profit organisations and (c) gender-based violence-related programmes in the most recent financial reporting period; if so, (i) what amounts were involved, (ii) what were the reasons for such underspending and (iii) what measures have been implemented to (aa) prevent delays in transfers to non-profit organisations and (bb) ensure that vulnerable beneficiaries are not suffering as a result of budget implementation failures? CO183E

*Funding to child-protection***★39. Ms H S Boshoff (Mpumalanga: DA) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

- (1) With reference to a court order by the Mahikeng High Court on 11 February 2026 directing the reinstatement of funding to child-protection non-profit organisations, (a) what oversight role her department exercises over provincial funding decisions relating to statutory child-protection and (b) what measures are being implemented to strengthen oversight transfer and subsidies to ensure continuity of services to vulnerable children;
- (2) whether any national interventions have been issued to prevent similar child-protection services; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO184E

*Addressing GBV/femicide***★40. Ms N S Du Plessis (Gauteng: DA) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

What specific (a) policy, (b) legislative and (c) programme interventions her department has implemented to address gender-based violence and femicide in South Africa during the 7th Administration? CO185E

*Leading causes of morbidity***★41. Ms N S Du Plessis (Gauteng: DA) to ask the Minister of Health:**

Whether his department recorded any changes in the leading causes of morbidity in South Africa over the past decade, given that many preventable non-communicable diseases are ranking in top 10; if not, why not; if so, (a) what changes and (b) what measures are being implemented to strengthen public confidence in the public healthcare system? CO186E

Procurement of medical equipment

★42. Mr M Billy (KwaZulu-Natal: DA) to ask the Minister of Health:

- (1) Whether all delivered medical equipment that were procured for the Pixley ka Seme Hospital in Durban are fully functional and compliant with contractual specifications, given the concerns regarding functionality of certain medical equipment; if so,
- (2) whether any equipment at the said hospital is currently non-operational; if so, (a) for what reasons and (b) what is the total value of medical equipment that has been procured for the said hospital since its commissioning;
- (3) whether any (a) internal audits, (b) inspections and/or (c) value for money assessments have been conducted regarding equipment procurement at the said facility; if so,
- (4) whether any deficiencies have been identified; if so, what consequence management (a) have been or (b) will be taken in this regard? CO187E

Child-headed households

★43. Ms L P Mhlongo (KwaZulu-Natal: MKP) to ask the Minister of Social Development:

- (a) How many child-headed households are currently registered in each province and (b) what specific programmes and/or interventions have been implemented to support such households, particularly in relation to (i) access to social grants, (ii) access to education, (iii) food security and (iv) psychosocial support services? CO188E

Undocumented foreign nationals

★44. Ms L P Mhlongo (KwaZulu-Natal: MKP) to ask the Minister of Health:

- (a) What is his department's official position on the ongoing protests by some South Africans regarding the alleged influx of undocumented foreign nationals who are accessing public healthcare services and (b) what data his department has on the number of such foreign nationals who are accessing public health facilities over the past three financial years? CO189E

Rollout of new HIV vaccine

★45. Ms L P Mhlongo (KwaZulu-Natal: MKP) to ask the Minister of Health:

- (1) What clinical trials and measurable safety tests have been conducted to ensure that citizens are protected from severe adverse side effects, including potential fatalities in the development and rollout of any new HIV vaccines;
- (2) whether the vaccine has undergone the required Phase I, II, and III clinical trials in accordance with (a) the national and (b) international regulatory standards; if not, why not; if so, (i) what were the outcomes regarding safety and efficacy and (b) how will

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his department integrate the vaccine into existing HIV/Aids prevention and treatment programmes without compromising access to current lifesaving treatments?

CO190E

National Drug Master Plan

★46. Ms L P Mhlongo (KwaZulu-Natal: MKP) to ask the Minister of Social Development:

- (1) What progress has been made in the implementation of the current National Drug Master Plan in addressing substance abuse across the country;
- (2) whether her department has conducted any recent evaluations of the effectiveness of the National Drug Master Plan; if not, why not; if so, what have been the (a) findings and (b) planned improvements in this regard?

CO191E

Orthopaedic surgical backlog

★47. Ms M Makesini (Free State: EFF) to ask the Minister of Health:

- (a) What is the status of the orthopaedic surgical backlog at the Cecilia Makiwane Hospital,
- (b) what is the current estimated waiting period for (i) adult and (ii) child patients from the time of being placed on the waiting list until the date of operation and (c) what specific steps have been taken to address the reported shortages of (i) theatre time, (ii) specialised nursing staff and (iii) surgical implants at such a facility?

CO192E

Settling of outstanding debt

★48. Ms M Kennedy (Limpopo: EFF) to ask the Minister of Health:

Whether he will outline any immediate intervention plans to settle the outstanding debt of approximately R7 billion that was highlighted in the Auditor-General's Report in 2025 and ensure that no further disruption to essential medical services which led to critical medicine shortages in the Eastern Cape; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO193E

Systemic looting/corruption

★49. Ms M Kennedy (Limpopo: EFF) to ask the Minister of Health:

Given the documented risks of fund mismanagement in the new National Health Insurance structure, what specific concrete measures are being implemented to prevent the recurrence of a systemic looting and corruption that has been observed during Covid-19 pandemic?

CO194E

Fees to access Emergency Medical Services

★50. Mr M M Mampuru (Gauteng: EFF) to ask the Minister of Health:

Whether he has been informed of the recent allegations that residents of Devon in Gauteng are being required to pay upfront fees to access Emergency Medical Services; if not, what is

the position in this regard; if so, (a) what is the official (i) national and (ii) provincial policy regarding payment for emergency ambulance services, specifically for life-threatening situations and (b) under what legal authority is any patient denied emergency medical transport or treatment as a result of inability to pay?
CO195E

Strategy for beneficiary empowerment

★51. Ms M Kennedy (Limpopo: EFF) to ask the Minister of Social Development:

With reference to her department's strategy for beneficiary empowerment and reduction of welfare dependency, (a) what specific programmes or policy frameworks are currently being implemented to facilitate the transition of social grant beneficiaries into formal employment, vocational training or sustainable self-employment, (b) what measurable targets have been set for such transitions for the current financial year and (c) how is the success of such interventions being monitored?
CO196E

Administrative barriers facing ECD providers

★52. Ms M Kennedy (Limpopo: EFF) to ask the Minister of Social Development:

With reference to the administrative barriers facing Early Childhood Development (ECD) providers, (a) what interventions have been initiated to (i) streamline and (ii) expedite registration processes for ECD centres, particularly those in underserved communities and (b) how will she ensure that the regulatory requirements for registration are not inadvertently excluding eligible centres from accessing crucial state funding and development support?
CO197E