NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

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, 13 AUGUST 2026

HIGHER EDUCATION

(Deferred from Tuesday, 10 March 2026)

Funding of students

★10. Mr M F Mokwele (Limpopo: ANC) to ask the Minister of Higher Education:

Whether any progress has been made to fund students from 'missing middle' household income that exceeds R350 000 and less than R600 000; if not, why not; if so, what progress? CO106E

Retention of students

★19. Ms N S Du Plessis (Gauteng: DA) to ask the Minister of Higher Education:

With reference to the estimated 50-60% drop-out rate amongst first-year students at universities in South Africa, what measures are currently being implemented to ensure that such students are retained in the Higher Education system? CO115E

Accountability of college/university councils

★11. Mr M Feni (Eastern Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Higher Education:

(1) Whether his department has any plans to (a) monitor, (b) evaluate and (c) hold members of college and university councils accountable; if not, why not; if so, what plans;

(2) what consequence management measures are in place where Executives and Councils are found to have committed serious failures whether by omissions and/or commission in their duties such as the case at the College of Cape Town? CO107E

NSFAS student accommodation

★3. Ms M Kennedy (Limpopo: EFF) to ask the Minister of Higher Education:

Whether he has been informed that the management of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme student accommodation continues to deteriorate, particularly regarding the accreditation of buildings that allegedly fail to comply with the prescribed norms and standards; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what (i) monitoring and (ii) verification processes are currently in place to ensure that only compliant, safe and habitable accommodation is accredited, (b) how many non-compliant buildings have been accredited since 2023 and (c) what consequence management has been instituted against officials who are responsible for approving such buildings? CO99E

TVET/public university programmes

★24. Ms L P Mhlongo (KwaZulu-Natal: MKP) to ask the Minister of Higher Education:

(1) Whether he has conducted any recent (a) national and (b) provincial audits to determine that programmes which are offered at public universities and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges are aligned with provincial economic development priorities; if not, why not; if so, (i) when were such assessments conducted and (ii) when will their findings be tabled before the National Council of Provinces;

(2) how many institutions in each province have introduced new programmes in renewable energy, digital economy, artificial intelligence, green hydrogen, maritime economy, agriculture processing and other scarce skills sectors in the past 24 months;

(3) (a) how many TVET colleges in (i) KwaZulu-Natal and (ii) the Eastern Cape are fully equipped to deliver artisanal training that is aligned to infrastructure and energy transition projects and (b) what percentage of graduates secure employment within 12 months as disaggregated in each province? CO120E

Upscaling training in artisanal skills

★12. Ms S Masumpa (Western Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Higher Education:

Considering the country's high unemployment rate, what actions is his department taking to upscale training in hard artisanal skills such as carpentry, painting, plastering, tiling, jeweller, metal and weaving to increase chances of skilled personnel being employed and/or opening their own businesses? CO108E

HOME AFFAIRS

(Deferred from Tuesday, 26 May 2026)

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;

(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

Milestones 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

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

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

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

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

Questions for oral reply transferred for written reply in terms of Rule 228(5):

★135. Mr S A Zulu (Mpumalanga: MKP)—Home Affairs.

★136. Mr S A Zulu (Mpumalanga: MKP)—Home Affairs.

★141. Mr M Billy (KwaZulu-Natal: DA)—Home Affairs.

★145. Mr V Gericke (Western Cape: EFF)—Home Affairs.

★150. Adv Inkosi M Nonkonyana (Eastern Cape: ANC)—Home Affairs.