

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, 19 MARCH 2026****SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION***Knowledge-based systems*

- ★90. **Mr M F Mokwele (Limpopo: ANC) to ask the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation:**

How is his department utilising knowledge-based systems to contribute to economic growth initiatives in line with the National Development Plan of South Africa? CO280E

Misuse of artificial intelligence

- ★72. **Ms J M Adriaanse (North West: DA) to ask the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation:**

In light of his department's public warning on 3 December 2025, (a) how is his department operationalising the misuse of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies, including global geopolitical violence in its local policy, regulatory and funding frameworks and (b) what concrete measures are in place to (i) ensure responsible artificial intelligence deployment in South Africa and (ii) protect citizens from potential harm? CO262E

Leveraging funding for health innovation

- ★91. **Mr M P Sibande (Mpumalanga: ANC) to ask the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation:**

Whether he will update the National Council of Provinces and the public on how his department is leveraging funding for health innovation in South Africa to transition research into commercial and scalable solutions; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO281E

Employment of foreign nationals

- ★77. **Mr H J Van den Berg (Northern Cape: FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation:**

- (1) (a) What is the current number of foreign nationals who are employed or involved in South Africa's critical research infrastructure facilities, (b) which positions they occupy, (c) what are their nationalities and (d) what specific facilities or projects they are associated with;
- (2) (a) why South Africans are not employed in such roles and (b) what (i) specific skills gaps, (ii) recruitment challenges or (iii) policy reasons are experienced in this regard;

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- (3) (a) what factors contribute to the employment of foreign nationals over South Africans in such positions and (b) what measures are in place to ensure (i) national security and (ii) intellectual property protection in such contexts? CO267E

Postgraduate support programmes

★84. Ms M Kennedy (Limpopo: EFF) to ask the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation:

How is his department ensuring that the National Research Foundation bursary and postgraduate support programmes translate into long-term employment, given that current youth employment within his department is only 12% against the set 30% target? CO274E

Green Hydrogen National Programme

★92. Ms D W Fienies (Northern Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation:

How is his department utilising the Green Hydrogen National Programme such as the Boegoebaai Project in the Northern Cape to bridge the gap between research and commercialisation? CO282E

SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Implementation of VAR technology

★86. Mr M Feni (Eastern Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture:

What progress has been made on the implementation of the Video Assistant Referee technology after he announced the transferring of funds to the SA Football Association regarding this matter? CO276E

Monitoring sport infrastructure investments

★74. Ms J M Adriaanse (North West: DA) to ask the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture:

(a) What strategic plans his department has in place to ensure (i) proper accountability and (ii) performance monitoring of sport infrastructure investments, in light of parliamentary committees and provincial engagements in Limpopo that have repeatedly flagged infrastructure decay and under-utilisation of sport facilities and (b) what measures are being implemented to ensure that such facilities deliver measurable community benefits and increased participation in sport? CO264E

*Sports facilities in rural/township schools***★82. Mr M M Mampuru (Gauteng: EFF) to ask the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture:**

Why public schools in the rural areas and townships still lack proper sports facilities compared to schools in the affluent areas and (b) what criteria is his department utilising to ensure equity in rural sports development? CO272E

*Naming of capital city***★87. Mr M F Mokwele (Limpopo: ANC) to ask the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture:**

Whether he will update citizens, especially those in Tshwane regarding progress in the naming of the capital city from Pretoria to Tshwane as was recommended by the SA Geographical Names Council in 2005; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO277E

*Developing/supporting sporting activities***★78. Ms L P Mhlongo (KwaZulu-Natal: MKP) to ask the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture:**

(a) What measures his department has implemented to develop and support sporting activities in the rural areas and (b) how many functional sports facilities have been (i) built or (ii) refurbished in rural communities in each province in the past three financial years? CO268E

*Sign language as official language***★89. Ms S Masumpa (Western Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture:**

Whether his department has any (a) plans or (b) programmes to develop SA Sign Language as the 12th official language in terms of section 6 of the Constitution; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (i) what plans, (ii) what programmes and (iii) what are the further relevant details? CO279E

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

★71. Ms J M Adriaanse (North West: DA)—Science, Technology and Innovation.

★73. Ms J M Adriaanse (North West: DA)—Sport, Arts and Culture.

★75. Mr P J Swart (Western Cape: DA)—Science, Technology and Innovation.

★76. Mr P J Swart (Western Cape: DA)—Sport, Arts and Culture.

★79. Ms L P Mhlongo (KwaZulu-Natal: MKP)—Home Affairs. (*Interdepartmental transfer*)

★80. Ms L P Mhlongo (KwaZulu-Natal: MKP)—Communications and Digital Technologies. (*Interdepartmental transfer*)

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- ★81. Ms L P Mhlongo (KwaZulu-Natal: MKP)—Sport, Arts and Culture.
- ★83. Ms M Kennedy (Limpopo: EFF)—Sport, Arts and Culture.
- ★85. Mr M M Mampuru (Gauteng: EFF)—Science, Technology and Innovation.
- ★88. Ms D W Fienies (Northern Cape: ANC)—Sport, Arts and Culture.
- ★93. Mr M Feni (Eastern Cape: ANC)—Science, Technology and Innovation.