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

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

TUESDAY, 04 AUGUST 2026

COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

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

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

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

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 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

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

PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION

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

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

Addressing workplace abuse

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

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? CO980E

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

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

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

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

★171. Ms M Makesini (Free State: EFF)—Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

★173. Mr K Ceza (Mpumalanga: EFF)—Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

★177. Mr B S Mabebo (North West: ANC)—Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

★182. Mr T M Kaunda (KwaZulu-Natal: ANC)—Public Service and Administration.

★184. Dr I S Scheurkogel (Free State: DA)—Public Service and Administration.

★185. Ms H S Boshoff (Mpumalanga: DA)—Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

★186. Mr F J Badenhorst (Western Cape: DA)—Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

★187. Mr F J Badenhorst (Western Cape: DA)—Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

★188. Mr F J Badenhorst (Western Cape: DA)—Public Service and Administration.

★190. Ms H S Boshoff (Mpumalanga: DA)—Public Service and Administration.

★191. Ms H S Boshoff (Mpumalanga: DA)—Public Service and Administration.

★192. Mr P J Swart (Western Cape: DA)—Public Service and Administration.

★193. Mr P J Swart (Western Cape: DA)—Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

★194. Mr E Nzimande (Gauteng: MKP)—Land Reform and Rural Development. ***(Interdepartmental transfer)***