

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER

NOTE:

1. † Indicates translated version of the question.
2. ★ Indicates a question for oral reply.

Table of Contents

Page

PEACE AND SECURITY

Cluster 1B

Minister of Correctional Services	254, 255, 256, 257
Minister in The Presidency	253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY**THURSDAY, 21 MAY 2026***Stats SA challenges***★114. Mr B S Mabebo (North West: ANC) to ask the Minister in The Presidency:**

- (1) Whether, in light of the Government's commitment to make Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) the cornerstone of South Africa's data ecosystem and providing evidence-base that is necessary for informed decision making and policy evaluation, the Government is making any progress in addressing the severe budget cuts, hiring freezes and loss of skilled staff at Stats SA; if not, why not; if so, how Stats SA is compared to its global counterparts; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether Stats SA is playing any role in global projects and/or programmes; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO550E

*Policy to regulate disinformation/misinformation***★115. Ms K R Molokomme (Limpopo: ANC) to ask the Minister in The Presidency:**

- (1) Whether, in light of the surge in fake news, disinformation and misinformation, particularly on social media, the Government has considered implementing any legal instruments such as a formal policy to regulate its spread and possible impact on individuals, state institutions and even the country's social cohesion; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether the Government has considered imposing any legal requirements on large social media platforms to moderate harmful content and assess systemic risks that may violate constitutional rights of individuals and even threaten national security; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO551E

*Poor cooperation***★116. Ms K R Molokomme (Limpopo: ANC) to ask the Minister in The Presidency:**

Whether, in light of the launch of the National Centre for Intelligence Coordination to integrate domestic, foreign, defence and crime intelligence into a unified system, the Presidency has taken all necessary measures to address the history of poor cooperation, rivalry and territorialism between different intelligence agencies such as Defence Intelligence Division, Crime Intelligence and State Security Agency that often hamper the seamless sharing of information; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO552E

*Recommendations of High-Level Review Panel***★117. Mr T M Kaunda (KwaZulu-Natal: ANC) to ask the Minister in The Presidency:**

Whether the Government is making any progress in implementing the 73 recommendations from the High-Level Review Panel on the State Security Agency; if not, why not; if so, (a) what measures are in place to (i) tighten financial controls and (ii) address concerns around systemic corruption, lack of transparency and misuse of secret funds that often enable illegal activities, (b) what are the main challenges in fully implementing all the recommendations of the High-Level Review Panel on the State Security Agency and (c) what are the further relevant details?

CO553E

*Strengthening correctional services infrastructure/technology***★118. Ms J S Mananiso (Gauteng: ANC) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

Whether his department is making any progress in strengthening correctional services infrastructure and technology to address the smuggling of cellular phones in light of their proliferation in correctional centres as more than 41 000 cell phones were confiscated nationwide between 2024 and 2025 (details furnished); if not, (a) what challenges are being experienced in this regard and (b) what measures are in place to address them; if so, what are the relevant details?

CO554E

*Overcrowding in correctional centres***★119. Adv Inkosi M Nonkonyana (Eastern Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

Whether his department is making any progress in addressing overcrowding in many of the country's correctional centres which are in the centre of rampant gangsterism, violence and disease-spreading while overwhelming staff, accelerating mental health issues and hindering effective correctional service delivery; if not, (a) what challenges are experienced in this regard and (b) what measures are in place to address them; if so, what are the relevant details?

CO555E

*Contract management/reducing outsourcing***★120. Ms O D Medupe (North West: ANC) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

Whether his department is making any progress in addressing (a) effective contract management and (b) the reduction of outsourcing as the urgent twin priorities for his department that is aimed at enhancing operational efficiency, reducing costs and regaining control over core correctional functions; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

CO556E

*Officials involved in criminal activities***★121. Mr P Noe (Free State: ANC) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

Whether his department is making any progress in taking decisive measures to address the involvement of correctional services officials in criminal activities, including taking bribes, soliciting money and engaging in fraud and corruption-related offences in correctional centres across the country; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO557E

*Implementing Zondo Commission recommendations***★122. Mr F J Badenhorst (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister in The Presidency:**

Whether, following her briefing to the Select Committee on Public Infrastructure and Ministries in The Presidency on 9 September 2025 on the progress in implementing recommendations of the Zondo Commission, any lifestyle audit processes for Members of the Executive have progressed beyond the verification and analysis phase; if not, why not; if so, what are the outcomes of such process? CO558E

*Induction/re-orientation programmes***★123. Mr F J Badenhorst (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister in The Presidency:**

Whether any assessments have been conducted to determine effectiveness of the induction and re-orientation programmes for Members of the Executive in improving governance and compliance with ethical standards; if not, why not; if so, what were the findings? CO559E

*SANDF deployment***★124. Mr N Gotsell (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister in The Presidency:**

In light of the President's decision in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief to deploy members of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) to five provinces to assist in combating gangsterism and illegal mining, what specific (a) considerations, (b) assessments or (c) inputs were undertaken by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation within the Presidency to inform the Presidency's understanding of the operational readiness, resource availability and interdepartmental coordination that is required to support effective implementation of such a deployment for both the SA Police Service and SANDF? CO560E

*Combating illegal cellular phone use***★125. Mr N Gotsell (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

Whether his department has conducted any comparative assessments of available technologies to combat illegal cellular phone use and other contraband in correctional centres, including signal-blocking and signal-directing systems; if not, why not; if so, what criteria are being used to determine which solutions are most effective in strengthening security, disrupting criminal networks and supporting lawful communication within correctional facilities? CO561E

Integrated Inmate Management System Project**★126. Mr O J Mokae (Northern Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

(a) What is the total legal bill to date for the dispute for Integrated Inmate Management System Project that has cost R259 million, with only 44 of the 243 sites ever rolled out which has been frozen as a result of arbitration since 2022 and (b) why has such arbitration taken nearly five years to resolve? CO562E

Reducing overcrowding**★127. Mr P J Swart (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

What concrete time-bound interventions his department is implementing to reduce overcrowding without compromising public safety, given that South Africa's prisons are currently operating at over 150% capacity with a significant proportion of inmates being awaiting-trial detainees? CO563E

High GBV**★128. Mr P J Swart (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister in The Presidency:**

Why has gender-based violence remained persistently high despite significant policy commitments and funding allocations, given that the Presidency is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide? CO564E

Reasons to occupation Office**★129. Mr V Gericke (Western Cape: EFF) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question 245 on 20 March 2026 indicating failure to introduce a single new programme, his presence in Office is a direct hindrance to radical transformation and decolonisation of the correctional services system; if so, what is the justification for his continued occupation of his Office;
- (2) whether he will provide a detailed report on how he plans to address structural failures of the current rehabilitation model for the remainder of his term; if not, why not; if so, when;
- (3) whether he intends to continue managing the status quo as a placeholder for a conservative agenda; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? CO565E

*National threat assessments***★130. Mr V Gericke (Western Cape: EFF) to ask the Minister in The Presidency:**

- (1) Whether, in light of the recent surge in nationwide anti-migrant demonstrations and the emergence of coordinated movements that are conducting unauthorised "stop and search" operations on foreign nationals, the State Security Agency (SSA) has conducted any threat assessments regarding the impact of such activities on the national stability and constitutional order; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) (a) why the intelligence services failed to provide early warnings and/or preventative intelligence regarding the orchestration of the said criminal acts and vigilantism, given that SSA's mandate is to safeguard the Republic against subversion and/or domestic threats and (b) what specific strategies and intelligence-led interventions are in place to combat the orchestrated campaign of xenophobic attacks? CO566E

*Escapes in correctional facilities***★131. Mr S A Zulu (Mpumalanga: MKP) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

In light of the 37 reported prisoner escapes in the 2025/26 financial year and the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Service's findings that 68% of centres have active gang structures with reported official complicity in smuggling contraband (details furnished), (a) what is the breakdown of escapes in each facility, (b) how many remain at large, (c) how many officials of his department have been arrested, charged and/or dismissed for collusion with gangs and/or smuggling contraband since 1 April 2025 and (d) what (i) technology and intelligence measures, including cellular phone jamming and body scanners and (ii) internal investigations are currently in place to dismantle "prison economy" that is enabling organised crime from within correctional centres? CO567E

*Corruption in parole boards***★132. Mr S A Zulu (Mpumalanga: MKP) to ask the Minister of Correctional Services:**

In light of his 2024/25 Annual report indicating that 1847 parolees reoffended within 12 months, including 312 violent cases and the alleged bribery in parole boards (details furnished), (a) how many Parole Board officials have been arrested and/or charged, dismissed and are under investigation for corruption-related to parole decisions since 1 April 2024, (b) how many parole approvals were granted despite negative risk assessments in the 2024/25 financial year, (c) who authorised such decisions, (d) what consequence management has been taken against released offenders who went on to commit serious and/or violent crimes and (e) what vetting lifestyle audits and digital tracking systems are in place to prevent manipulation of parole decisions and/or "parole-for-sale" practices? CO568E

Presidential Hotline cases

★133. Mr S A Zulu (Mpumalanga: MKP) to ask the Minister in The Presidency:

(a) What is the current resolution rate for Presidential Hotline cases as of 30 April 2026, given that only 62% of the hotline cases were resolved within the 25-day target (details furnished), (b) why the Presidency continues to miss its own turnaround targets despite being the apex complaints mechanism and (c) what consequence management has been taken against Directors-General of departments who are repeat offenders for unresolved cases? CO569E

Presidential SOE Council

★134. Mr S A Zulu (Mpumalanga: MKP) to ask the Minister in The Presidency:

In light of the establishment of the Presidential State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) Council in 2020 with R78 billion bailouts to Eskom, Transnet, SA Airways and Denel (details furnished), (a) what measurable outcomes the said Council has delivered to date, (b) what accountability actions have been taken against failing SOEs leadership and (c) what are the clear timelines and plans for each SOE to end reliance on bailouts? CO570E