

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION PAPER

Note:
1. ★ Indicates an oral question.

Table of Contents

Minister of Agriculture 65, 66, 67
Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies 64, 65, 66
Minister of Electricity and Energy..... 64, 65, 66, 70
Minister of Employment and Labour..... 64, 66, 67, 68, 69
Minister of Finance 63, 65, 66, 69
Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment 65, 68
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation..... 68, 69
Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources 64, 67, 68
Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation 69, 70
Questions standing over..... 68
Questions transferred from written to oral reply..... 69

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

WEDNESDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2024

CLUSTER 4: ECONOMICS

★684. Dr M J Burke (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether he is able to guarantee that the increase in the public sector wage bill will not exceed the amount budgeted for in the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? NO3483E

★650. Ms L S Makhubela (ANC) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Given that the financial sector transformation is one of the critical pillars for the creation of an inclusive economy with increased black ownership and noting the discriminatory practices in the banking system in (a) accessing affordable home loans and (b) access to business finance which largely stifles the growth of small-, medium- and micro enterprises and the efforts at economic transformation, what steps will the

National Treasury take with regard to discriminatory practices in the banking system?
NO3449E

★686. Mr A D Beesley (ActionSA) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

- (1) Whether, considering that the unemployment rate of university graduates has risen from 9,7% in second quarter of 2024 to 9,8% in in the third, and further considering that this figure represents an increase from 8,5% in the third quarter of 2023 to 9,8% in the third quarter of 2024, he, in collaboration with other Ministers in the economic cluster, has developed specific plans to address this escalating crisis; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether he has found that the lack of opportunities for university graduates may result in the emigration of the skilled individuals, leading to a potential loss of valuable human capital for the Republic; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what interventions does he propose to prevent this? NO3485E

★651. Ms K L N Sangoni (ANC) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

In light of growing competition in the postal and courier services space which in turn leads to competitive pricing, (a) how will he ensure that the Batho Pele principle on equal access for all citizens to services that are affordable and easily accessible to the poor and marginalised will be adhered to, while he intends to privatise the SA Post Office (SAPO) and (b) what strides have been made to rescue and ensure the sustainability of SAPO since the announcement of day zero? NO3450E

★671. Mr K J Mileham (DA) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

Given that Eskom has applied for a 36,15% tariff increase in the upcoming financial year, what steps has he taken to ensure that Eskom provides greater financial transparency and accountability to the people of the Republic for its years of mismanagement and corruption as the entity has not yet submitted its Annual Report and Annual Financial Statements for the 2023-24 financial year to either Parliament or the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (details furnished)? NO3470E

★710. Mr M S Mbatha (MK) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

With reference to the National Energy Act, Act 34 of 2008 which was promulgated more than a decade ago and the Proclamation Notice issued on 28 April 2024, (a) what are the reasons for the delay in publishing the Integrated Energy Plan and (b) by what date will he present it to Parliament and/or update critical but outdated energy-related legislations and interventions such as the Gas Act, Act 48 of 2001 and Gas Master Plan?? NO3511E

★652. Ms M L Mofokeng (ANC) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources:

What nuanced lessons learnt from other African countries on how artisanal and small-scale mining can be successfully regulated to combat illegal mining is he intending to implement? NO3451E

★694. Ms O M C Maotwe (EFF) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Considering the fourth strategy of building state capacity that he mentioned in his Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement, whereas Operation Vulindlela champions privatisation of state enterprises, (a) how does he envisage to build state capacity while the Government is privatising Transnet, Eskom and Water and Sanitation and (b) what number of jobs does he seek to create whilst taking the key state functions to the private sector?

NO3494E

★715. Mr N M Hadebe (IFP) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

Since the major impact of climate change on biodiversity is the rise in intensity and frequency of fires, storms and droughts, and considering the recent shifts in weather patterns across the Republic, what urgent measures are in place to (a) protect wildlife and (b) ensure visitors safety in SA National Parks during the festive season?

NO3519E

★653. Mr V A Nkosi (ANC) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

In light of the concerns that have emerged associated with the slow rate at which Eskom's Key Revision Number rollover project has occurred, (a) what initiatives did Eskom utilise to ensure that customers, especially those living in townships and rural areas, were empowered with the necessary information and supporting channels to update their meters before the 24 November 2024 deadline and (b) to what extent will the updated meters prevent customers from bypassing it and loading illegal electricity tokens from illegal and/or ghost vendors?

NO3452E

★672. Ms T K Bodlani (DA) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

Following his withdrawal of the SA Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) Bill, what is the recourse of his department to urgently address the funding model of the SABC?

NO3471E

★654. Ms J Q Khumalo (ANC) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

What strategies are in place to enhance the effectiveness of the Integrated Development Support programme for small-scale fishing co-operatives, particularly in the face of industry giants attempting to monopolise the market?

NO3453E

★711. Mr K B Madlala (MK) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:

With reference to his reply to question 781 on 14 October 2024, wherein he indicated that his department was not involved in the feasibility study for Makhathini Flats, on what basis then did his department make the commitment to construct a sugar milling factory in Makhathini Flats?

NO3512E

★695. Ms O M C Maotwe (EFF) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Considering that there are 12 million unemployed persons in the Republic, yet in his Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement he spoke of the introduction of the eVisa as one of the achievements of Operation Vulindlela, (a) how will allowing foreign nationals to come and work in the Republic strengthen the economy to be more productive and foster much-needed job creation and (b) how will the introduction of the eVisa will affect his target of 1 million jobs?

NW3495E

★655. Ms N S Nkopane (ANC) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

Given the increase in inspections conducted by her department in different provinces (details furnished), (a) what recourse is there for the labour inspectors in instances where either the owner or the management of the property locks them outside of a workplace they intend to inspect and (b) which sectors are notorious for the specified bad practice?

NO3454E

★674. Mr S G Vilakazi (DA) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

According to the business rescue practitioners of the SA Post Office (SAPO), the specified entity faced day zero at the end of October 2024, if the R3,8 billion bailout was not received from the National Treasury, what is the current situation at SAPO regarding day zero?

NO3473E

★656. Mr D D Pule (ANC) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:

What are the relevant details on the strategies needed to improve the logistics in supply chain processes in agriculture, in light of the inefficiencies in ports and rail?

NO3455E

★668. Mr S M Gana (Rise Mzansi) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

What (a) number of interventions has he had to mediate between municipalities and Eskom since 1 January 2024 for non-payment of electricity and (b) are the reasons given by municipalities for not paying Eskom?

NO3467E

★658. Mr S I Subrathie (ANC) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

Whether, noting that the SA Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) has a duty to serve everyone, including the poorest in our society, and realising that the South African Broadcasting Corporation SOC LTD Bill [B32-2023] which he has issued a notice of intention to withdraw was meant to help the SABC recover from its state of financial loss and instability, he has put alternative measures in place to (a) help improve its financial viability and (b) ensure that it is sustainable in the interim; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO3457E

★669. Mr M Bagraim (DA) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

Whether she has accessed any funds from the Public Investment Corporation for the Government to try and create jobs to date; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) to whom has the money been loaned and (b) in which specific sectors were jobs created?

NO3468E

★712. Mr K B Madlala (MK) to ask Minister of Agriculture:

Whether he was informed about the section 42C funding of the Makhosi Khosi Communal Property Trust in KwaZulu-Natal, which is a farm that is currently renting assets to the value of about R500 000 a month; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what (a) happened to the specified funding and (b) are the further relevant details?

NO3513E

★659. Mr M G Mahlaule (ANC) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources:

What steps has his department taken to ensure that the (a) South African diamond industry is not negatively impacted by the G7 sanctions on Russian diamonds and (b) well-established Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is not undermined by the G7 single node proposal?

NO3458E

★705. Mr L M Komane (EFF) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources:

(1) Whether he was informed about the incident that happened on 2 November 2024 at Mapochs Mine where two children drowned in an abandoned dam inside the mine precinct; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the reasons his department has failed to ensure that mining companies such as the specified mine do in fact rehabilitate their open-cast mines to prevent tragic deaths;

(2) whether his department will hold the mining company accountable for the preventable loss of life; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO3505E

★687. Inkosi R N Cebekhulu (IFP) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:

(1) Whether, given that stock theft and rural crime significantly hinder agricultural investment and the development of small towns, with farmers in vast and often remote rural areas being especially vulnerable due to the distances from service centers and police assistance, his department has engaged with other departments, such as the Department of Police, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and local municipalities, to strengthen rural crime prevention measures; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) what additional support and resources are being considered to equip rural farming communities and local policing structures to better respond to and prevent crime?

NO3486E

★661. Ms N Makasi (ANC) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) In light of global climate change, what specific early warning measures has his department implemented to reach deep rural communities (details furnished);
- (2) whether he has found the specified measures to have been effective; if not, what challenges were encountered in the implementation of the specific early warning measures; if so, what are the relevant details? NO3460E

★676. Mr W D Peach (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

In light of the fact that his department has a poor legacy of financial management, as it has accumulated over R5 billion in irregular expenditure and a staggering R280 million in fruitless and wasteful expenditure in the previous five financial years, what (a) number of officials of his departmental are subject to disciplinary action in terms of consequence management and (b) amount has been recovered thus far? NO3475E

★662. Mr B M Maneli (ANC) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

What steps has she taken both in terms of policy and practical interventions to ensure that semi-skilled jobs, not listed as critical skills, are ring-fenced to enable the employment of South Africans? NO3461E

★702. Mrs E N Ntlangwini (EFF) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources:

What measures has his department taken to rehabilitate tailing dumps in mines in the Vaal Reefs? NO3502E

QUESTIONS STANDING OVER FROM TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2024, IN TERMS OF RULE 144(1)**★424. Ms E L Powell (DA) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:**

(a) What was the motivation behind the recent request to the Taiwanese government to relocate its unofficial embassy from Pretoria to Johannesburg and (b) how has he found this development will affect the hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of export market that the Republic has in Taiwan? NO1937E

★393. Ms M Modise-Mpya (ANC) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

How (a) does he intend to leverage the G20 platform under South Africa's upcoming Presidency in 2025 to advance global governance reforms for greater representation that promotes the economic interests of Africa and the Global South and (b) will economic diplomacy play a role in this regard? NO1893E

★434. Mr M K Montwedi (EFF) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

(a) What are the full relevant details of the foreign policy position of the Republic in relation to Russia, following the statement released by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr J H Steenhuisen, that South Africa is not a friend of Russia contrary to the message of the President of the Republic, Mr MC Ramaphosa, during the bilateral between the two Heads of State, describing the President of the Russian Federation as a valuable ally and (b) who may speak on the foreign policy positions of the Republic? NO1951E

★425. Ms E L Powell (DA) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

What is his position on the Government's relationship with the President of the Russian Federation, Mr Vladimir Putin, who stands accused of war crimes and is subject to an arrest warrant by the International Criminal Court, to which the Republic is a signatory, which brings to bear a concomitant obligation on all signatories to bring war criminals to justice? NO1938E

**QUESTIONS TRANSFERRED FROM WRITTEN TO ORAL REPLY IN
TERMS OF RULE 146(1)**

★717. Ms C Labuschagne (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance *[Interdepartmentally transferred from Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs with effect Monday, 30 September 2024]* [Written question 980] [REMOVED]

★718. Mrs D van der Walt (DA) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour [Written question 1398]:

- (1) What are the full details of all (a) listed and (b) unlisted investments made by the (i) Unemployment Insurance Fund and (ii) Compensation Fund (aa) in each of the past eight financial years and (bb) since 1 April 2024 up to the latest date for which information is available;
- (2) what is the total (a) amount and (b) income benefit of listed and unlisted investments made through the Public Investment Corporation (PIC) for both entities since the initial investment transactions;
- (3) whether the PIC incurred any loss over the specified period of business with both entities on any listed and unlisted investment transactions; if not, what is the position in each case; if so, what are the further relevant details in each case?

NO1726E

★719. Mr M M Mdluli (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance [Written question 1531]:

What are the (a) names of all the (i) subsidiaries, (ii) companies and (iii) investment holdings that received loans and/or financing from the Public Investment Corporation in the past five years and are now in business rescue and/or liquidation and (b) details of the value at risk for the Industrial Development Corporation in this regard?

NO1843E

★720. Mr R W T Chance (DA) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy [Written question 1546]:

Whether he will furnish Mr R W T Chance with (a) a list of the negotiated pricing agreements and (b) the discount amounts in Rand granted to each company and/or entity in the (i) past five years and (ii) period 1 January 2024 to 1 October 2024; if not, what is the position in each case; if so, what are the further relevant details in each case?

NO1858E