

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION PAPER

Note:

1. ★ Indicates an oral question.

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

WEDNESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2024

CLUSTER 4: ECONOMICS

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

Considering that the process of the financialisation of the South African economy has accelerated dramatically over the past three decades (details furnished), what measures are in place to ensure that the financial sector invests in the productive capabilities of the State to drive the much-needed inclusive economic growth of the economy?

NO972E

★212. Adv S Salie (Al Jamah-ah) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

- (1) What policy strategies has she developed to reduce the skyrocketing unemployment rate;

- (2) whether she has set any timelines to reduce the increase in unemployment; if not, why not; if so, which sectors of the industries have been approached to assist in this regard? NO971E

★214. Mr S M Maeco (ANC) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

Whether, considering the transformative goal of building a Republic that truly reflects all who live in it and noting the current efforts and challenges related to employment equity in key sectors of the economy, her department has collected comprehensive data on the state of employment equity in the financial sector; if not, why not; if so, what steps are being taken to address any disparities to ensure a more inclusive workforce? NO973E

★245. Mr A G Bateman (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

What measures has the National Treasury taken to (a) minimise the impact the Government's severe budget cuts on the respective government departments service delivery programmes such as in education, health and other social services, and (b) identify and eliminate non-essential programmes and expenditure to mitigate the impact of the severe budget cuts? NO1018E

★229. Mr D D D van Rooyen (MK) to ask the Minister of Finance:

(a) On what basis did he instruct the Reserve Bank not to attend the Standing Committee on Finance oversight meetings related to the Ithala Bank and (b) what constructive role is he and his department playing to resolve the problems of the specified bank? NO998E

★215. Ms F Hassan (ANC) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

Whether, given the burden of the rising cost of living and increasing electricity tariffs throughout the Republic, he will consider initiating a review of the Free Basic Electricity (FBE) programme in an effort to reduce energy poverty and mitigate the rising cost of electricity as part of an integrated social security net for poor communities, considering that the current 50 kWh allocated within the FBE programme has been proven by a wide range of studies to be insufficient; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NO974E

★267. Ms N V Mente-Nkuna (EFF) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether the National Treasury promulgates a standardised rate and/or amount (a) of transporting a child paid per head on scholar transport and (b) for feeding schemes in schools; if not, what is the position in each case; if so, what is the standardised rate or amount in each case? NO1041E

★235. Mr N M Hadebe (IFP) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:

What are the plans of his department to (a) encourage and upskill women and (b) ensure equal participation in the agricultural sector? NO1006E

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

How does his department's plan to create 93 301 work opportunities and 67 650 full-time jobs by March 2027 align with its efforts to restore ecosystems (details furnished)?

NO975E

★206. Ms C Wilskut (PA) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

Considering that race classifications are currently contained in the Employment Equity Act, Act 55 of 1998, and with regard to the national question on non-African minority and black persons in general, and Africans in particular, how does her department intend to ensure that coloured minority groups are not discriminated against for employment opportunities amidst the backdrop of focusing on African persons in particular?

NO964E

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

What are the details of the (a) steps her department has taken to amend legislation and expunge regulations found to be counterproductive to job creation and (b) laws and regulations which have been targeted to date?

NO1028E

★217. Ms S W Davids (ANC) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:

How does he intend to accelerate the gains of land reform through agricultural development for the creation of small- and medium-scale black farmers to ensure greater food security in the Republic?

NO976E

★230. Mr M K B Molefe (MK) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

(a) What is the current rating of the World Association of Nuclear Operators for the Koeberg Power Station and (b) how does the specified rating compare to the rating of 2017?

NO999E

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

(1) Considering that approval for the reopening of the Lily Mine was granted, what is the full spectrum of interventions that he has undertaken together with the management of the Lily Mine to guarantee safety of the operations;

(2) whether he has engaged with the families of the workers who perished in that mine and considered their views on having the mine operate while the remains of their loved ones are still buried in the mine; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO1046E

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

- (1) Whether, regarding the Government's decision to buy the SA Petroleum Refineries (SAPREF) with a design capacity of 180 000 barrels per day from Shell and BP South Africa, his department and/or the Central Energy Fund (CEF) had determined the capital cost required for SAPREF's rebuild including its rehabilitation and cleanup; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether he has found that the specified sale implies that the CEF will be responsible for historical environmental liabilities committed by Shell and BP in the past; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO977E

★258. Mr S Zondi (DA) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources:

- (1) Whether he has found that the rate of adulterating has decreased since the start of random testing at fuel stations around April 2024; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) what steps has his department taken to deal with fuel stations and diesel wholesalers who have been found to be adulterating their diesel stocks?

NO1032E

★219. Mr M Mrara (ANC) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

What (a) is the duration and the status of work done to date by business rescue practitioners at the SA Post Office and (b) can South Africans expect to see in the entity going forward, post business rescue?

NO978E

★221. Ms A S Hlongo (ANC) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

- (1) Regarding his recent withdrawal of the gazetted section 34 determination to proceed with the procurement of 2 500MW of new nuclear generation capacity as part of the Government's intention to create a diverse and sustainable energy mix in the Republic, what, has he found, is the likely impact of the specified withdrawal and the Republic's overall long-term plans relating to energy security on the electricity sector;
- (2) whether he has found that nuclear power will continue to play a role in the future energy mix of the Republic; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO980E

★247. Mr A D de Blocq van Sheltinga (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

Whether he will publish the outcomes of the (a) recent Fishing Rights Allocation Process and (b) individual scoresheets of both successful and unsuccessful applications, in the interests of transparency; if not, why not in each case; if so, what are the relevant details in each case?

NO1020E

★231. Mr L D Selepe (MK) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources:

- (1) Whether there are any measures in place to identify and rectify instances of double granting of mining rights; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) how will his department ensure that mining communities are engaged when rights are granted in a transparent manner and without duplication?

NO1001E

★222. Ms S E Lucas (ANC) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:

What are his plans regarding legislation and policy, in terms of (a) growing the poultry sector and (b) promoting an export-oriented approach in the poultry sector?

NO981E

★273. Ms L Mathys (EFF) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

What (a) informed the decision to use KPMG International Limited to do the investigation into the R89,5 million fraud at the Postbank and (b) total amount was KPMG paid for the investigation?

NO1047E

★240. Mr K P Sithole (IFP) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

(a) What are the medium to long-term strategies for postal services in the Republic beyond April 2025 and (b) how will his department balance the interests of the SA Post Office alongside the growing demand for services which are provided by private courier companies?

NO1011E

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

What (a) progress has been made to date on the roll-out of phase two of the SA Connect Project and (b) impact has he found that the specified project had on transformation, as it relates to government facilities located in rural areas and townships?

NO983E

★246. Mr A D de Blocq van Sheltinga (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

Given the importance of fishing harbours to small-scale fishermen, what (a) work is underway regarding the upkeep of the infrastructure of fishing harbours and (b) steps is he taking to collaborate with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure in this regard?

NO1019E

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

How will the planting of indigenous and edible plants and the collection of waste reduce greenhouse gas emissions from illegal dumping sites, landfills and waste incineration facilities?

NO987E

★279. Mr M N Paulsen (EFF) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

With reference to the claims made by Eskom that the utility has improved electricity generation and has enough capacity to meet the national demand while some municipalities have replaced load shedding with load reduction, which specifically targets mainly poor black communities and not the big electricity debtors who owe millions for electricity, what measures has his department and/or Eskom implemented to assist municipalities to identify the corporate syndicates, the so-called izinyoka, that have defaulted on their electricity bills?

NO1053E

★252. Mr E V Baptie (DA) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

Given the growing needs and the rising costs of energy in the Republic, as well as the scourge of theft and vandalism to electricity generation and to the supply grid that poses a risk to energy security and affordability, what was the total direct costs arising from the scourge in terms of (a) Eskom's operating expenses in the 2023-24 financial year and (b) the loss to the SA economy due to power outages arising from theft and vandalism in the specified period?

NO1025E