

[No 7 – 2022] Fourth Session, Sixth Parliament

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**QUESTION PAPER**

Note:

1. ★ Indicates an oral question.
2. † Indicates the translated version of the question.
3. ☐ Indicates a written question not yet replied to after 10 working days expired.

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY**WEDNESDAY, 4 MAY 2022****CLUSTER 5: ECONOMICS****★246. Mr L N Mangcu (ANC) to ask the Minister of Transport:**

Given that rail transport plays an important part in the movement of goods and persons, and noting that the Government policy has correctly shifted to move freight from road to rail as the most efficient mode of transportation, (a) by what date does he envisage the rail infrastructure development will commence and (b) is it intended to commence simultaneously in different parts of the Republic, given that there is a single integrated rail network for goods and passenger transport operated by both the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa and Transnet Freight Rail?

NO1610E

★288. Mr G K Y Cachalia (DA) to ask the Minister of Public Enterprises:

Whether the Government has considered declaring a national state of disaster to respond to the energy crisis of the Republic and to assist Eskom as a matter of urgency to mitigate the further negative consequences of protracted and more frequent periods of electricity blackouts; if not, what (a) is the position in this regard and (b) other steps will the Government take to address the energy crisis of the Republic; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO1725E

★291. Ms O M C Maotwe (EFF) to ask the Minister of Public Enterprises:

In light of the fact that at the beginning of April 2022, Transnet invited bids from private companies to operate sections of its freight rail network, (a) what are the full details of the private sector involvement at Transnet and (b) will these plans include privatising sections of Transnet in the medium term to long term?

NO1806E

★248. Ms L F Shabalala (ANC) to ask the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure:

Given that the current economic conditions in the Republic have been characterised by high unemployment, which has been created through low economic growth and the COVID-19 pandemic, and noting that job creation is a national priority as part of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, (a) what total number of job opportunities has the Presidential Employment Stimulus Package created and (b) how will the Government be optimising the Expanded Public Works Programme to secure skills development, job creation and creating entrepreneurs?

NO1612E

★267. Mr S S Zondo (IFP) to ask the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure:

With reference to the announcement made by the President of the Republic, Mr M C Ramaphosa, that her department is identifying suitable state land that can be used for resettlement of those who have lost their homes following the devastating floods in KwaZulu-Natal, (a) within what time-period will the identification process be done and (b) what criteria will be used to select the specified land?

NO1631E

★257. Ms J Tshabalala (ANC) to ask the Minister of Public Enterprises:

In light of the continued upward trend in the global demand for coal which the Republic has in abundance, what (a) has he thus far done to address Transnet's infrastructure challenges that inhibits the unlocking of coal's economic potential and (b) tangible evidence has he found of progress in addressing the constraints within Transnet's infrastructure that leads to the stagnation and the shrinking of the coal industry?

NO1621E

★277. Mr D W Macpherson (DA) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

What (a) measures has he taken to cushion South African consumers who are currently experiencing the increase in the prices of food and goods and (b) has he found to be the root causes of the increase in the prices of food and goods?

NO1714E

★255. Mr S H Mbuyane (ANC) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

Given that the scrap metal export industry gives rise to high levels of theft of copper cable and metal which is causing serious damage to our public infrastructure, what control measures has his department adopted to mitigate against the negative effects of the increased scrap metal export on our infrastructure? NO1619E

★244. Mr B N Herron (Good) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

- (1) Whether, in view of the fact that growth, jobs and export opportunities by manufacturers, and especially small, medium and micro enterprises operating in the confectionery industry are being negatively impacted by the high sugar input costs due to the current sugar tariff regime (details furnished), he intends for the Sugar Master Plan to assist the confectionery manufacturing industry; if not, why not; if so, in what manner;
- (2) whether he intends to provide protection to South African confectionery manufacturers against high sugar prices and unfair competition from tariff-free imported products; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, in what manner? NO1606E

★258. Mr E T Myeni (ANC) to ask the Minister of Small Business Development:

- (1) How is her department dealing with the fact that the offices of the two entities reporting to her, the Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda) and the Small Enterprise Finance Agency (Sefa), are not found in townships and/or rural areas;
- (2) what are the reasons that some enterprises go through all the Seda application processes successfully and yet fail to be financed by Sefa (details furnished)? NO1622E

★279. Mr H C C Krüger (DA) to ask the Minister of Small Business Development:

Whether she has found that the Red Tape Unit that has been established by the President of the Republic, Mr M C Ramaphosa, duplicates any of the functions of her department; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) which functions are being duplicated and (b) what are the further, relevant details in this regard? NO1716E

★292. Ms O M C Maotwe (EFF) to ask the Minister of Public Enterprises:

- (1) What caused the recent upsurge of load shedding in the Republic;
- (2) whether he has found that the current leadership of Eskom has the expertise to lead the entity to stability and ensure sustainable energy supply for the Republic; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details in this regard? NO1807E

★256. Ms P T Mpushe (ANC) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

In view of the fact that a committee report on tourism infrastructure projects indicates that the Auditor-General found that her department over the years had incurred R119,84 million in fruitless and wasteful expenditure due to poor implementation of the Working for Tourism Infrastructure projects, and that the responsibility for the implementation of the specified projects has since been moved to the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), what (a) consequence management tools have been applied to hold those involved accountable and (b) improvements has his department realised in using the DBSA as an implementing agent?

NO1620E

★289. Mr M G E Hendricks (Al Jamah-Ah) to ask the Minister of Small Business Development:

In light of the fact that her department has granted a fishing vessel to a fisherman's co-operative in Mpame Village in the Eastern Cape, what more has she found her department can do to develop and transform small businesses in the village and in surrounding areas into thriving fishing and timber businesses through opportunities and access to the ocean and forest economy to create jobs?

NO1726E

★259. Ms J C N Mkhwanazi (ANC) to ask the Minister of Public Enterprises:

In light of the decision by the National Energy Regulator of South Africa to approve a 9,61% electricity tariff increase that will reduce the burden of high electricity costs on households and businesses, (a) what has he found are the financial implications of the specified decision on Eskom's ability to ensure the security of electricity supply and (b) how will the Government's support offset the negative effects of Eskom's lack of generation capability and low energy availability factor on unprecedented load shedding that costs the Republic dearly?

NO1623E

★252. Ms M M Ramadwa (ANC) to ask the Minister of Transport:

Noting that the SA National Roads Agency (Sanral) has traditionally been a well-run and financially stable state-owned entity, and that the ongoing Gauteng N1 e-toll project issue which has been unresolved for years has negatively impacted the financial stability of Sanral, (a) how far has the Government progressed towards resolving the Gauteng N1 e-toll issue and (b) if this issue remains unresolved, how will the Government assist Sanral financially to enable the entity to prioritise other important road construction projects in the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan?

NO1616E

★281. Mr J N de Villiers (DA) to ask the Minister of Small Business Development:

Whether her department has taken any steps to encourage national, provincial and local government departments and entities to ensure that their invoices owed to small, medium and micro-enterprises are paid within the legislated 30 days; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO1718E

★293. Ms A M Siwisa (EFF) to ask the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure:

With reference to the vacant posts at the Council for the Built Environment (CBE), what has she found to be impact of the vacancies on the functioning of the CBE in the 2021-22 financial year?

NO1808E

★253. Ms N Ntobongwana (ANC) to ask the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure:

Given that reviving the economy and ensuring inclusive growth and development as a critical task at this conjuncture in the Republic which will be geared towards reversing the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment, how does her department intend to harness the development agencies, Infrastructure South Africa, as well as work programmes on infrastructure build and skilling programmes such as the Expanded Public Works Programme in order to reverse the effects of poverty, inequality and unemployment?

NO1617E

★264. Mr E M Buthelezi (IFP) to ask the Minister of Public Enterprises:

In light of the current energy supply crisis at Eskom which is set to continue for another successive period of months with more rolling black-outs at great socio-economic cost to the Republic, what are the full relevant details of the reason for the resistance to open up by issuing licences to private and/or public/private establishments for alternative energy supply streams?

NO1628E

★249. Mr N E Dlamini (ANC) to ask the Minister of Public Enterprises:

Considering that the State of the Nation Address on 10 February 2022 has highlighted that Transnet should focus on improving operational efficiencies at the ports through procuring additional equipment, (a) what are the reasons that Transnet declared the procurement of 232 diesel locomotives from China North Rail unlawful and (b) have any original equipment manufacturers been identified to fill the gap?

NO1613E

★272. Mr R A Lees (DA) to ask the Minister of Public Enterprises:

Whether, with reference to his letter to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts dated 7 April 2022, wherein he indicated that the banks refused to provide any further funding support to the SA Airways (SAA) unless it was placed under business rescue, he has found that the SAA would still have been placed under business rescue even if the banks had agreed to provide any further funding support; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO1709E

★247. Prince Z Burns-Ncamashe (ANC) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

With reference to the announcement made by the President of the Republic, Mr M C Ramaphosa, in his State of the Nation Address on 10 February 2022 that the hemp and cannabis industry will be supported to create 130 000 jobs in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, what collaborative efforts has his department undertaken by working with the Department of Agriculture to (a) improve the regulatory framework and (b) attract the necessary investment needed for the industry? NO1611E

★263. Mr A M Shaik Emam (NFP) to ask the Minister of Public Enterprises:

- (1) What is the name of each equity partner and/or shareholder of the SA Airways;
- (2) whether the partners and/or shareholders have links to any politicians and/or political parties who may have an interest in the entity; if not, what are the reasons that his department had not consulted the National Treasury on the matter; if so, what are the relevant details? NO1627E

★250. Ms S T Maneli (ANC) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

Noting that the Republic hosted the first Africa's Travel and Tourism Summit in 2021 and that in April 2022, Ministers and officials from a number of African countries joined a tourism roundtable discussion in Cape Town to discuss the role of green tourism and digitisation in the transformation and growth of tourism sector in Africa, among other things, (a) what significant policy shifts and discussions is she and/or her department bringing forth to be applied in the South African context in relation to digitisation and green tourism and (b) how does her department intend to drive a more radical transformation of the domestic tourism sector on the back of the resolutions emanating from such engagements? NO1614E

★273. Mr R A Lees (DA) to ask the Minister of Public Enterprises:

With reference to his letter to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts dated 7 April 2022, what are the details of the restructuring option the Government had chosen to restructure the SA Airways? NO1710E

★294. Ms A M Siwisa (EFF) to ask the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure:

- (a) What are the reasons that the post of Prestige Director in her department's office in Cape Town has been vacant since 2020 and (b) how has the prolonged vacancy of the position affected the execution of her department's functions? NO1809E

★251. Ms M L Lubengo (ANC) to ask the Minister of Small Business Development:

When the reviewing of the policy and regulatory framework for cannabis sets itself in motion, will emerging small, medium and micro enterprises in the Western Cape be given an equal opportunity for agricultural and business development, including access to land for such purposes as those in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape? NO1615E

★261. Mr C N Malematja (ANC) to ask the Minister Trade, Industry and Competition:

In light of the fact that the concentration of the economy is an impediment to achieving structural transformation of the economy of the Republic following the Competition Commission's Report which measured increasing levels of concentration over 80 sectors of the economy, what (a) measures has his department put in place in order to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Competition Commission and (b) collaborative effort is in place with other departments to urgently respond to the increasing levels of concentration in the economy of the Republic?

NO1625E

★260. Mr H G April (ANC) to ask the Minister of Small Business Development:

(a) What plans has her department put in place to increase its footprint in the rural areas, in particular, in order to better the living conditions of all South Africans and (b) how will her department work with the new Red Tape Reduction Unit in The Presidency in order to improve the chances of small, medium and micro enterprises and cooperatives to succeed?

NO1624E

★274. Ms B M van Minnen (DA) to ask the Minister of Transport:

What is the current status of the progress made in relation to the proposed 13 kilometres extension of the N2 through Somerset West and the Helderberg leading up to Sir Lowry's Pass?

NO1711E

★295. Mr M Tshwaku (EFF) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

With regard to the Trade Policy Statement that was released by his department in May 2021, which reflected his department's policy objectives for international trade in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the opportunities that stemmed from the signing of the agreement on the African Continental Free Trade Area, what are the details of the progress made by his department to fulfil the policy objectives, particularly in as far as the building of industrial capacity in the Republic and the continent is concerned?

NO1810E

★262. Mr F Jacobs (ANC) to ask the Minister of Small Business Development:

In light of the recent dire report by the Competition Commission on increased market concentration in all industries and sectors, what (a) policy, legalisation and/or other intervention will she and/or her department implement to create a more inclusive and shared economy in the small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) and cooperatives sector and (b) measures is she and/or her department implementing in order to curb the bullying and exclusion of SMMEs and cooperatives throughout the value and supply chain in the economy?

NO1626E

★265. Mr K P Sithole (IFP) to ask the Minister of Transport:

- (1) Whether he will work with the transportation industry in order to lower their costs of transporting goods and services within and to KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) without the prices affecting other provinces for a defined period; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether he will reduce and/or suspend toll fees to assist in keeping the cost of transportation down, while it assists KZN to rebuild their supply routes; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NO1629E

★275. Mr C H H Hunsinger (DA) to ask the Minister of Transport:

What are the details of the steps, excluding condition-determination assessments, his department (a) has taken to date and (b) intends to take in the future to address the road maintenance backlog in the Republic, which is currently estimated at R300 billion? NO1712E

★245. Mr B N Herron (Good) to ask the Minister of Transport:

Given that the National Land Transport Act, Act 5 of 2009, was promulgated 13 years ago to transform and restructure our land transport system, locate land transport functions in the appropriate sphere of government and provide for integrated public transport networks, and noting that little progress has been made in achieving the objectives and provisions of the specified Act and that public transport is in crisis, what (a) are the reason that many of the provisions of the Act have not been implemented and (b) is his plan for functional, integrated public transport networks throughout the Republic? NO1607E

★276. Mr C H H Hunsinger (DA) to ask the Minister of Transport:

Whether he had any engagements with the SA Civil Aviation Authority regarding its decision to suspend the services of Lufthansa Technik and airlines operated by Comair for nearly a week in March 2022, which resulted in the disruption of the travel plans of thousands of passengers who were unable to secure alternative flights and the estimated 400% increase in one-way fares between Johannesburg and Cape Town; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? NO1713E

★296. Mr M Tshwaku (EFF) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

- (a) On what date is it envisaged that the Special Economic Zones Strategic Framework will be finalised and (b) what kind of economic activity will the framework catalyse? NO1811E

★290. Mr M G E Hendricks (Al Jamah-Ah) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

- (1) Whether she has found that her department has succeeded in its post COVID-19 plans to re-ignite tourism; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, at what levels;

- (2) whether her department has plans to re-ignite tourism reach-out to the black tourist destinations in all provinces; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the details of monitoring mechanisms that her department has put in place to ensure transformation of the tourism sector in the provinces?

NO1727E

★278. Mr D W Macpherson (DA) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

Whether he has found that the Government's broad-based black economic empowerment policy has been effective in broadening opportunities for black South Africans; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO1715E

★297. Ms B Mathulelwa (EFF) to ask the Minister of Small Business Development:

What specific actions will her department undertake to assist small businesses that have been ravaged by the recent floods in KwaZulu-Natal?

NO1812E

★270. Inkosi R N Cebekhulu (IFP) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

Whether, in light of the concerns raised by the SA Association of Meat Importers and Exporters that there will be a shortage in the supply of poultry if the Republic does not produce enough poultry which will have an impact on both small-scale farmers and the consumers, his department has any plans in place to assist with (a) the urgent removal of trade tariffs on all poultry products and (b) a three-year moratorium on any new tariffs?

NO1634E

★280. Mr H C C Krüger (DA) to ask the Minister of Small Business Development:

Whether she intends to introduce legislation in the National Assembly to make it easier for companies, specifically small, medium and micro-enterprises, to do business in the Republic, given the recent establishment of the Red Tape Unit by the President of the Republic, Mr M C Ramaphosa; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) by what date does she intend to introduce the legislation and (b) what are the further, relevant details in this regard?

NO1717E

★269. Mr A M Shaik Emam (NFP) to ask the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure:

Whether the company that conducted the investigation on the extent of the damages as a result of the fire that affected the parliamentary buildings and provided her department with a comprehensive report will be awarded the contract to renovate the specified buildings; if not, (a) what is the position in this regard and (b) will a procurement process be followed; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO1633E

★282. Mr J N de Villiers (DA) to ask the Minister of Small Business Development:

What total (a) number of small, medium and micro enterprises received funding through the COVID-19 Debt Relief Fund of her department and (b) amount in funding has been paid out to the specified beneficiaries to date?

NO1719E

★299. Mr P G Moteka (EFF) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

What (a) plans has her department put in place to assist tourism operators affected by the recent floods in KwaZulu-Natal and (b) has she found will be the impact of the floods on the future sustainability of the sector in that province?

NO1814E

★283. Mrs M B Hicklin (DA) to ask the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure:

What are the details of the transformation and upliftment policy reforms aimed at uplifting black female professionals in the built environment that have been implemented through the Council for the Built Environment since 29 May 2019?

NO1720E

★300. Mrs N J Nolutshungu (EFF) to ask the Minister of Transport:

Whether, with reference to his reply to question 286 on 8 March 2022, in which he indicated that providing housing alternatives to the persons who have built houses on railway lines in the Cape Flats settlements is not within the mandate of his department, the Implementation Protocol that has been initiated to be signed by all stakeholders involved in the removal of families that have settled within the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa reserves guarantees that the families will not be removed without being provided with alternative homes; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details contained in the protocol that guarantees that the families will not be removed without being provided with alternative homes?

NO1815E

★266. Mr K P Sithole (IFP) to ask the Minister of Transport:

What (a) are the current developments of the safety improvement project of the Moloto Road in Mpumalanga since the last briefing session to the Portfolio Committee on Transport and (b) is the projected progress by the end of the 2023-24 financial year?

NO1630E

★284. Mr M S F de Freitas (DA) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

What are the details of the (a) strategies that her department has put in place to ensure that the tourism sector contributes to economic growth and to job creation in the Republic over the 2022-2024 Medium-Term Strategic Framework and (b) measures that her department has put in place to ensure that the specified strategies are realised?

NO1721E

★285. Mr M S F de Freitas (DA) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

How is value for money and expenditure return ensured against budget allocations and actual expenditure for each foreign tourism office?

NO1722E

★301. Mrs N J Nolutshungu (EFF) to ask the Minister of Transport:

What resources will his department make available in order to repair the damage caused to the roads by the recent flooding in KwaZulu-Natal?

NO1816E

★286. Ms S J Graham (DA) to ask the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure:

What total number of properties under the custodianship of her department, which house SA Police Service stations, offices and support departments are (a) leased from private individuals and (b) earmarked for and/or currently under refurbishment?

NO1723E

★268. Mr S S Zondo (IFP) to ask the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure:

(a) What are the reasons that the website of her department is so outdated (details furnished) and (b) how has the significant update of the website been allowed to slip through the cracks particularly considering that the departmental website is the first point of contact for the public?

NO1632E

★287. Ms S J Graham (DA) to ask the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure:

At what total number of properties under the custodianship of her department is the function of facilities management (a) performed by her department and/or (b) outsourced to a service provider?

NO1724E