

[No 24 – 2022] Fourth Session, Sixth Parliament

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION PAPER

Note:

1. ★ Indicates an oral question.
2. † Indicates the translated version of the question.

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

WEDNESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2022

CLUSTER 5: ECONOMICS

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

By what date will she publish the list of the names and identities of the persons and enterprises that benefited from her department's (a) COVID-19 Debt Relief Fund and (b) KwaZulu-Natal flood relief scheme for public perusal? NO5410E

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

- (1) What are the reasons that Eskom is not reversing its decision to cancel the contract with a certain company (name furnished) after a certain person (name furnished) has admitted that he used a nonexisting affidavit to arrive at a decision and that the contract was awarded irregularly;
- (2) whether Eskom is continuing with the process to deregister the specified company as a supplier; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NO5389E

★860. Mr S N Gumede (ANC) to ask the Minister of Public Enterprises:

Seeing that the Minister of Finance, Mr E Godongwana, has tabled a Special Appropriation Bill to provide Denel with the working capital of R3,4 billion with attached stringent conditions to cover the restructuring costs and execute the confirmed order book of R12 billion to return to profitability and sound footing, (a) what steps has he taken to undo the reputational damage at Denel so that Denel can comply with the stringent conditions to secure Government support and (b) how will his department oversee that the working capital of R3,4 billion is not mismanaged, given the high vacancy rate at the senior management level? NO5367E

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

Considering that his department identifies industrial parks amongst others as critical drivers of the reimagined industrial policy, which seeks to reindustrialise the economy and increase opportunities in rural and underdeveloped provinces thereby creating an inclusive economy, and noting that the sustainability of industrial parks will largely depend on the entrepreneurial opportunities and support provided by the Government, what measures did he and/or his department put in place to provide direct financial support to small and medium enterprises in the jurisdiction of industrial parks located in rural and undeveloped provinces through the (a) National Empowerment Fund and (b) Industrial Development Corporation? NO5368E

★862. Mr L N Mangcu (ANC) to ask the Minister of Transport:

Considering that the development of transport infrastructure is a critical part of the development of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan over the past two years, what (a) total number of road corridors did his department develop and (b) progress has the SA National Roads Agency made in the development of toll roads? NO5369E

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

What are the reasons that the amalgamation of Brand South Africa and SA Tourism was stopped? NO5412E

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

Whether, considering the President's ramming through of his Just Transition Initiative, which will see a dramatic reduction of the use of coal and other dependable sources of energy in favour of renewable energy sources that are still to be tested, he has done any assessment of what impact this transition will have on the industrial developmental plans of the Republic; if not, why not; if so, how will the Republic's industry be impacted by the just transition? NO5398E

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

Considering that the criteria for small businesses to gain access to finance continues to be a major obstacle to the development of the small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs), what is her department doing to (a) provide the ease of access to low-cost loans for the development of SMMEs and (b) reverse the historic, economic exclusion of the majority of persons, especially youth, in the creation of SMMEs? NO5370E

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

What action has he and/or his department taken to restore the full functionality of Transnet to decrease the presence of large trucks on the roads and reduce the multiple fatal accidents in KwaZulu-Natal attributed to trucks carrying large cargo such as coal? NO5388E

★864. Mr T V Mashele (ANC) to ask the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure:

Noting that the state of governance in the entities reporting to her has been moving in the direction of improving and establishing better financial controls, what are the measures (a) within her department for the entities that are reporting to her to develop suitable plans for development to fulfil their mandate and (b) that the entities have in place to establish financial sustainability? NO5371E

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

What contributions has he found the Government's flagship economic policies of (a) Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment and (b) localisation as championed by him made to job creation and growth in the Republic since 1 November 2021? NO5403E

★859. Rev K R J Meshoe (ACDP) to ask the Minister of Public Enterprises:

Whether he has found that the decommissioning of Eskom's coal mines, such as the Komati Power Station in Mpumalanga, would (a) further deepen the deficit of energy supply and (b) necessitate purchasing additional electricity from other power producers, including Southern African countries such as Botswana and Zambia, despite the already burgeoning Eskom debt; if not, what are the reasons that he is decommissioning coal mines that will further add to Eskom's debt and power supply crisis; if so, what will be done to ensure that the impact on the economy is minimised? NO5366E

★865. Ms S T Xego (ANC) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

Considering that the report of the Auditor-General of South Africa indicated that her department did not achieve 11 targets overall (details furnished), what measures will her department put in place to (a) finalise procurement processes on time for the implementation of the initiatives going forward and (b) have a greater reach particularly in the villages, townships and small towns in line with the set priorities of this Sixth Administration? NO5372E

★892. Mr B N Herron (Good) to ask the Minister of Small Business Development:

In view of her department having created another financial scheme to support businesses in the townships and rural areas, which will provide financial support of up to R1 million to individuals with small businesses that meet the criteria, while also focusing on creating platforms that will provide business support infrastructure and regulatory support that will allow small businesses to thrive, what (a) makes the new scheme different from what the current structures such Small Enterprise Development Agency, Small Enterprise Finance Agency, National Empowerment Fund and National Youth Development Agency are doing in terms of assisting small businesses in townships and rural areas and (b) are the details of the business support infrastructure and regulatory support that her department will provide? NO5399E

★866. Mrs R M Moatshe (ANC) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

Whether, considering that many countries that have successfully industrialised have been able to achieve this through enforcing localisation policies (details furnished), his department has considered enforcing and designating the procurement of locally produced products by the Government in order to support and intensify manufacturing; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NO5373E

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

With reference to the announcement by the SA National Road Agency Limited (SANRAL) on 3 November 2022 that it had awarded four out of five previously cancelled tenders following an evaluation process by the Development Bank of Southern Africa, what total number of the tenders did SANRAL award to (a) local and (b) international construction companies? NO5401E

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

What is the total number of black executives at (a) Eskom and (b) Transnet who resigned and/or were suspended since 2018 and were replaced by white and/or Indian executives? NO5390E

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

With the decline of domestic airlines in the Republic and the current high cost of domestic air travel, and noting how important it is that his department recognises the market opportunity for the resumption of the long distance commuter train service throughout the Republic, (a) what progress has been made by the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa to ensure the resumption of the long distance commuter rail service and (b) by what date is it envisaged that progress will be made on the resumption of the long-distance rail commuter service? NO5374E

★868. Ms L N Mjobo (ANC) to ask the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure:

(a) How is she and/or her department dealing with the challenge of filling vacancies with the appropriate skills and capabilities, considering that her department has utilised most of its appropriated budget for its programmes, yet has been underspending in all programmes due to such vacancies impacting the specified programmes and (b) has her department set a time frame by which the specified vacancies will be filled?

NO5375E

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

What (a) measures did he and/or his department put in place to replace the six steam generators at Koeberg Nuclear Power Station, that have caused not only load shedding but budget overruns as well, according to the revised commitment dates so that they are not deferred like before and (b) is the status of the progress with regard to disputes to reduce costs incurred by such deferrals?

NO5376E

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

What (a) is the average age of the taxis that are currently registered to operate across the Republic and (b) are the details of the main features of his department's Taxi Recapitalisation Programme?

NO5402E

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

Considering the fact that persons with disabilities spend almost 60% of their salaries on transport due to the fact that our public transport system is not accessible for their full travel chain, what (a) steps has his department taken to ensure that people with disabilities, wheelchair users in particular, have easy access to public transport and (b) is his department doing to ensure that the public transport system of the Republic is universally accessible?

NO5391E

★870. Ms K B Tlhomelang (ANC) to ask the Minister of Small Business Development:

How will her department enforce the 30-day payment period for small-, medium- and micro-enterprises (SMMEs) as late payment and non-payment to small businesses by government departments and entities has caused some SMMEs to collapse?

NO5377E

★878. Mr K P Sithole (IFP) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

What (a) has she found is the projected impact of the recent announcement by the President, Mr M C Ramaphosa, that the Republic will waive visa requirements for Kenyan tourists to the Republic from the beginning of 2023 and (b) steps are being taken by her and/or her department to fully exploit this opportunity for tourism?

NO5385E

★871. Ms F E Khumalo (ANC) to ask the Minister of Transport:

What (a) plans has he and/or his department put in place in terms of working with provincial and local government to improve the state of provincial and local roads and (b) progress has he found were made thus far in utilising the Provincial Road Maintenance Grant to maintain provincial roads?

NO5378E

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

What steps has his department taken to ensure that the Republic will continue to benefit from the (a) African Growth and Opportunity Act and (b) European Partnership Agreement after the completion of the renewal processes of the trade opportunities?

NO5404E

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

Given that SAFCOL's revenue generation has remained stable in the range of R1 billion a year in the past four years, (a) how far is SAFCOL in dealing with the hurdles that have caused significant delays to the implementation of the Timbadola Sawmill project and (b) by what date does he envisage that the specified project will be implemented since it is the main enabler in improving the revenue generation of SAFCOL?

NO5379E

★910. Mr A M Shaik Emam (NFP) to ask the Minister of Transport:

Considering that more than 300 Muslim women attempting to fly to the O R Tambo International Airport had their constitutional rights violated by being body-searched by both men and women, as they appeared to be targeted simply as a result of them belonging to the Muslim faith, how does his department intend to intervene with the treatment that only Muslim women face from the Airports Company of South Africa at the specified airport?

NO5420E

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

How will the merger (a) between SA Tourism and Brand SA further enhance the work that they have been doing as separate entities towards branding the Republic as a destination of choice globally and (b) benefit local tourism?

NO5381E

★898. Mr F Essack (DA) to ask the Minister of Public Enterprises:

What are the reasons that the Government insists on continuing to bail out embattled state-owned enterprises like Denel, instead of opening the sector to public-private partnerships to achieve economies of scale?

NO5405E

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

What (a) are the reasons that the Road Accident Fund (RAF) went to court to stop the Auditor-General from publishing their 2021-22 financial audited report and (b) action has he taken to ensure that the management of RAF is held to account for the mismanagement of the entity?

NO5392E

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

- (1) What has she found has been the impact of flight shortages with subsequent excessive flight ticket increases on the domestic tourism market;

- (2) whether she and her department have taken any steps to mitigate the price increases in order to support the growth of domestic tourism through accessible and affordable travel; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NO5382E

★899. Mr F Essack (DA) to ask the Minister of Public Enterprises:

What mechanisms has he put in place to ensure that entities that report to him submit their annual financial statements and report to Parliament by the stipulated statutory deadlines each year? NO5406E

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

What (a) has been the impact of the delay by the government departments to pay invoices of small businesses on their ability to function and (b) steps has she taken to address the situation with her counterparts in the Cabinet? NO5393E

★879. Mr K P Sithole (IFP) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

What are the steps that she and/or her department has put in place to safeguard local and international tourists at places known as high tourist attractions and destinations? NO5386E

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

What are the relevant details of the steps, including the temporary and/or permanent suspension of policy encumbrances, that Eskom has taken since 1 January 2022 to urgently address the electricity crisis in the Republic by ensuring that electricity blackouts are prevented in the shortest time possible? NO5407E

★893. Mr B N Herron (Good) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

With reference to the Shell seismic blasting that is currently placed on hold through legal intervention, but that is set to occur in the Wild Coast of South Africa and would include months of offshore work which will definitively affect tourism along the area, what (a) is the anticipated impact on tourism in the region when the blasting resumes and (b) steps has her department taken to protect tourism in the region? NO5400E

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

Whether she has held any engagements with the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Mr E Patel, to discuss the impact that the sharp rise in anti-dumping duties on imported frozen potato chips from R16 per kilogram in 2021 to R30 per kilogram in 2022 has had on small business restaurants, takeaway operators and retailer offerings; if not, why not; if so, what are the details of the (a) engagements and (b) steps she has taken to date to assist small business owners? NO5409E

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

What (a) total number of small agribusinesses that are run by the youth and women has her department supported in the past five years and (b) is the reason that her department does not aggressively promote small agribusinesses as a lucrative business that young people should invest in?

NO5394E

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

What is the status of the repurposing of the site of the Rivonia Treason Trial in Madiba Street in Pretoria into a cultural heritage site for public exhibitions and tourists to visit?

NO5411E

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

What (a) are the exact timelines for the completion of the Parliament rebuilding project and (b) guarantees can she give that the costs for the specified project will not exceed the costs presented thus far?

NO5395E

★876. Inkosi B N Luthuli (IFP) to ask the Minister of Small Business Development:

Whether she and/or her department has any plans in place to allocate and/or regulate more legal spaces for informal traders; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details of how her department intends to (a) coordinate and (b) measure the economic activities of informal traders in order to provide potential development of their businesses towards formalisation?

NO5383E

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

By what date will the term for the (a) current interim Board of SA Tourism end and (b) new Board of SA Tourism commence?

NO5413E

★858. Mr A M Shaik Emam (NFP) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

Given the monopoly that food corporations enjoy in the Republic, what steps has his department taken to ensure that consumers are not exploited through price-fixing in the (a) food manufacturing and (b) wholesale and/or retail sector?

NO5363E

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

Which transformation initiatives of (a) her department and (b) the entities reporting to her have achieved the requisite levels of transformation as per their respective mandates since 30 May 2019?

NO5414E

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

(a) In what number of instances has her department invoked its powers to expropriate property in the past 10 years and (b) what total amount was spent on legal fees in pursuit of such expropriations?

NO5396E

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

Whether each of the 12 regional offices of her department submitted detailed corrective action plans within the stipulated 60 days after the release of the 2022 Green Drop Report published on 1 April 2022; if not, which of the specified regional offices (a) submitted their corrective action plans late and (b) have not submitted any corrective action plan to date; if so, what are the relevant details? NO5415E

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

- (1) Whether his department has done any assessment of the finding of Business Leadership South Africa in 2021 that the country loses more than R250 million worth of tax revenue a day due to illicit economic activity, which has knock-on effects on job creation and service delivery; if not, why not; if so, what was found to be the impact of illegal activities on the ability of the Republic to maintain its integrity as a stable trade partner;
- (2) whether his department has quantified the problem of illegal importation of vehicles from Asia into the Republic; if not, why not; if so, what impact has this had on motor industry of the Republic? NO5397E

★877. Inkosi B N Luthuli (IFP) to ask the Minister of Small Business Development:

- (1) What are the relevant details of the alternative forms of financial relief, other than the financial assistance, that have been provided to small business owners affected by the April floods in KwaZulu-Natal and parts of the Eastern Cape;
- (2) what is the time period during which her department has made assistance available to small business owners? NO5384E

★909. Mr M J Cuthbert (DA) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

What benefits has he found the economy of the Republic derived from its participation in the African Continental Free Trade Area since it became operational in January 2021? NO5416E