

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER

Note:

1. ★ Indicates an oral question.

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

WEDNESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2024

CLUSTER 4: ECONOMICS

★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

★207. Ms E Freeman (PA) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

(a) What is the long-term strategy of his department to ensure the nationwide broadcast of national games across all Republic's local television channels and (b) how will the specified strategy ensure accessibility for and inclusivity of all citizens? NO965E

★208. Mr G F Jonas (PA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

(a) What actions and/or policies will his department implement to address and eliminate the issues of discrimination, nepotism and racism faced by fishing communities along the West Coast and (b) how will his department ensure fair and equitable treatment for all members of the specified communities, as they are prohibited to participate in the Fishing Rights Allocation Process? NO966E

★209. Ms S G Khojane (PA) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

Given that the National Energy Regulator of South Africa has applied for an electricity tariff hike on the cusp of South Africans facing the highest cost of living and that the South Africans pay more for electricity than Brazil, China, India and the United States, how does his department intend to deal with the proposed hike which will put a further financial strain on consumers? NO967E

★210. Ms F S Rorke (PA) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) Considering that in August it was reported that more than 60% of women in rural areas rely on farming for food consumption, what measures are being implemented by his department to support women farmers who are often held back by barriers such as restrictions related to gender, financial struggles and having less access to land, loans and machinery;
- (2) whether he will furnish Ms F S Rorke with an update on the implementation of the Agricultural Development Agency and its impact on small-scale farmers; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NO968E

★211. Ms K de Bruin (PA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

How does the National Treasury intend to equip South Africans with the knowledge and/or support needed to make a critical decision on their pension and withdrawals in terms of the two-pot retirement system? NO969E

★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

★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

★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

★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

★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

★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

★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

★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

★220. Ms M P Makgato (ANC) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

Given that youth unemployment is one of the most serious socio-economic challenges in the Republic, what steps is her department taking to demonstrate and ensure that there is a renewed sense of purpose, aimed at tackling the urgent matter? NO979E

★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

★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

★223. Ms F Hassan (ANC) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources:

Whether, concerning the intention of TotalEnergies to withdraw from two large gas deposits in Block 11B/12B off the shore of the Southern Coast, citing its inability to secure a market for the gas in the Republic and ultimately deciding to develop the Orange Basin in Namibia, the current regulatory and policy regime provides the flexibility required for scaling up gas resources and increasing the attractiveness of the Republic relative to other gas-producing neighbouring countries such as Mozambique and Namibia; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NO982E

★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

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

What (a) has he found is the state of readiness for the total analogue switch-off which has been scheduled to take place in December and (b) plans are in place to mitigate against revenue losses for the SA Broadcasting Corporation due to the analogue switch off?

NO984E

★226. Ms N A Ndalane (ANC) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:

What is the plan and/or strategy for investing in training and equipping farmers for the purpose of adapting to technological farming methods?

NO985E

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

What long-term sustainability measures will his department put in place to address the unfunded mandate of entities reporting to him, particularly the SA Broadcasting Corporation?

NO986E

★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

★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

★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

★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

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

- (1) What was the outcome of the bankable feasibility study for the Makhathini Flats, which would have paved the way for the construction of a sugar milling factory at Makhathini Flats in the Maputaland region;
- (2) whether the approved R8 million funding towards the specified study has been utilised; if not, why not; if so, what are the full, relevant details of the expenditure?

NO1002E

★233. Mr L D Selepe (MK) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

- (a) What strategies has she put in place to stimulate job creation and economic growth and (b) how will she address the skills mismatch and implement training programmes to equip the workforce for in-demand jobs?

NO1003E

★234. Mr N Ndhlela (MK) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

How (a) long has the Postbank been a mentee of Standard Bank and (b) was the specified bank selected to mentor the Postbank?

NO1004E

★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

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

In light of the rising climate change issues, what measures will his department put in place to introduce training workshops and/or programmes to educate small-scale farmers on climate-smart farming techniques?

NO1007E

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

How will he hold the officials who were responsible for the fraud and theft of R500 million at Onderstepoort Biological Products, that has led to chronic shortages of vaccines, accountable for the mismanagement of funds through fruitless and wasteful expenditure?

NO1008E

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

With the unbanning of meat products in Saudi Arabia and the signing of fifteen agreements that included collaboration in agriculture, mining and tourism, how has he found will the unbanning of meat exports to Saudi Arabia develop future opportunities for growth and development in the agricultural sector between Saudi Arabia and the Republic?

NO1009E

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

What are some of the long-term strategies that his department has put in place to ensure continuous broadcasting of the major national sports events for citizens who solely rely on the SA Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), as the SABC has paid SuperSport for sub-licensing rights?

NO1010E

★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

★241. Mr M A Mncwango (IFP) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources:

In light of the fact that TotalEnergies South Africa has withdrawn from the offshore block 11B/12B and 5/6/7, (a) what specified policies and/or incentives are in place to attract new investors, and (b) how will his department balance the need for immediate economic gains as well as the long-term sustainability of gas and oil resources of the Republic?

NO1012E

★242. Mr M A Mncwango (IFP) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources:

Considering that the platinum mining industry experienced a significant decline in its headline earnings per share as it fell to 81,6% in the year to end June 2024 to R4,45, and noting that the industry employs approximately more than 181,000 workers, what (a) measures does the Government have in place to support the platinum sector and (b) plans has his department put in place to support research and development in the platinum sector to find new uses and applications for the metal which may assist in reviving its demand?

NO1013E

★243. Mr S L Ngcobo (IFP) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

Considering that the municipal debt to Eskom remains a great challenge to Eskom's efforts of debt relief that has significant implications for both municipal budgets and the national fiscus, what (a) are the relevant details of municipalities that have complied with all the conditions for 12-months write-off of one-third of the municipal Eskom arrears on debt, interest and penalties and (b) urgent interventions has he and Eskom implemented to help municipalities eradicate the consumer culture of non-payment for services in municipalities that rely on Eskom for electricity supply?

NO1015E

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

What is (a) the current status of the development of the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) and (b) the total amount that has been spent on the IFMS since 2005 when the project was initiated?

NO1017E

★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

★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

★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

★248. Mr C F B Smit (DA) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:

Whether there is currently any forum for coordination, communication and collaboration in place to address the challenges facing infrastructure and other support structures and services provided by other departments, entities and other spheres of government that impact on the viability, efficiency and profitability of the agricultural sector; if not, what are the details of the plans to create such a forum; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO1021E

★249. Mr C F B Smit (DA) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:

Whether there is currently any virtual fresh produce market on a digital platform to assist all farmers with market access; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO1022E

★250. Mrs D van der Walt (DA) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

In light of the rising unemployment rate in the Republic, what are the details of the steps her department has taken to (a) stimulate economic growth and (b) create permanent employment opportunities in collaboration with other relevant departments?

NO1023E

★251. Mrs D van der Walt (DA) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

What is the current status of the capacitation of the Inspection and Enforcement Services Programme with suitably qualified personnel and relevant tools of trade?

NO1024E

★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

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

(a) What mitigating measures have been instituted to combat the scourge of theft and vandalism to electricity generation and to the supply grid and (b) how effective are the measures anticipated to be?

NO1026E

★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

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

Whether the SA Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) plans to pursue criminal charges against Messrs Ian Platjies and Merlin Naicker, who were dismissed after being found guilty of attempting to receive kickbacks from SABC+; if not, why not in each case; if so, what are the relevant details in each case?

NO1029E

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

What is the total (a) number of court cases and litigations in which his department is currently involved and (b) costs that his department has incurred to date in this regard?

NO1030E

★257. Mr S Zondi (DA) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

Whether his department has taken any steps to assist the 80 students who were supposed to have received accredited certification in the installation of solar photovoltaic technologies, after completion of the coursework from a certain company (name furnished), which failed to deliver the contracted service; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO1031E

★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

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

Whether his department has put any plans in place to (a) rationalise the 11 entities reporting to him that have overlapping mandates and (b) pursue public-private partnerships to strengthen the performance of the entities, to lower the pressure on public finances; if not, in each case, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details in each case? NO1033E

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

What measures has he put in place to curb maladministration in (a) his department and (b) the entities reporting to him? NO1034E

★261. Mrs W R Alexander (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether the National Treasury has commissioned any studies and/or investigations to determine the effectiveness of the Active Labour Market Policies (ALMPs) under its custodianship in addressing pressing socio-economic challenges in the Republic; if not, why not; if so, (a) which programmes of the National Treasury have been found to enhance the effectiveness of the ALMPs and (b) what impact will the specified programmes have in alleviating the persistent high levels of unemployment, poverty and inequality? NO1035E

★262. Mrs W R Alexander (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

- (1) What is the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the Report of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of Impropriety at the Public Investment Corporation to address governance, operational and/or ethical shortcomings within the Public Investment Corporation;
- (2) whether he has found that the implementation of the specified recommendations has rectified some of the deficiencies identified by the Commission; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? NO1036E

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

Whether his department has begun preparations for the commencement of the Climate Change Act, Act 22 of 2024; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details of his engagements with other (a) departments and/or spheres of government and (b) the private sector and/or relevant stakeholders? NO1037E

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

Considering the inclusion of the financial framework towards the appropriation of funds through the Presidential Climate Commission in the Climate Change Act, Act 22 of 2024, and given that the funds will spearhead the Just Energy Transition of the Republic, how will his department collaborate with the National Treasury to ensure that the funds help to meet the environmental and developmental obligations of the Government? NO1038E

★265. Mr W A S Aucamp (DA) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:

With reference to the recent outbreak of the Foot-and-Mouth disease in the Eastern Cape, what steps has his department taken to (a) address the outbreak with specific reference to the actions taken to defeat the outbreak in that specific area and (b) prevent the spread of the disease beyond the area of the current outbreak? NO1039E

★266. Mr W A S Aucamp (DA) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:

With reference to the several agreements that he signed with his Chinese counterpart during his recent visit to that country, what has he found will be the effects of the implementation of the agreements on the agricultural industry in the Republic? NO1040E

★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

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

Whether the National Treasury promulgates a standardised rate and/or amount to feed (a) an inmate and (b) a Member of Parliament per day; if not, what is the position in each case; if so, what is the standardised rate or amount in each case? NO1042E

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

- (1) What is the total amount that the Government across all spheres is banking with all the banks in the Republic, besides the SA Reserve Bank;
- (2) whether the Government gets back any of the interest made by the banks from its deposits; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, in what form? NO1043E

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

Considering that the financial sector declares year-on-year profits in a State where the economy is not growing, and with high levels of unemployment, poverty and inequality which have widened in the past 15 years, what (a) total amount from the profits made by the financial sector is channelled back to government programmes that contribute to economic growth and the reduction of poverty, inequality and unemployment and (b) are the full details of the programmes? NO1044E

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

What (a) are the full details of active and potential exploration sites of petroleum in the Republic and (b) is the total estimated worth of the exploration sites? NO1045E

★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

★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

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

What (a) informed the decision to appoint Anoosh Rooplal and Juanito Damons to supervise the business rescue process of the SA Post Office (SAPO) and (b) was the total cost of SAPO's business rescue process? NO1048E

★275. Mr S Thambo (EFF) to ask the Minister of Finance:

With reference to his reply to question to 2088 on 27 September 2021, wherein he indicated that the National Treasury is working on amending the Public Finance Management Act, Act 1 of 1999 (PFMA), and in view of the fact that approximately 172 municipalities are in arrears for periods ranging from 6 to 240 months, what (a) steps has he taken to initiate legislative changes to amend the PFMA and Municipal Finance Management Act, Act 56 of 2003, to put in place a stronger framework to deal with non-payments on tax, pension contributions, as well as to suppliers such as Eskom and water boards and (b) total number of municipalities has the National Treasury found to have been deducting money from the salaries of municipal workers and not paying it towards workers' pension funds? NO1049E

★276. Mr S Thambo (EFF) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether, following the correspondence he received from the Economic Freedom Fighters that indicated that the report of the Financial Sector Conduct Authority indicates that 2 224 private security companies have failed to make the required statutory payments towards the pension and health benefit funds of security guards and thereby violating section 13A of the Pension Funds Act, Act 24 of 1956, he has found that there are government departments, municipalities and/or state-owned enterprises that have contracted private security companies that are not compliant with the specified regulation; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what (a) total number of such companies are contracted by the Government and (b) is the total monetary value of the specified contracts? NO1050E

★277. Mr M K Montwedi (EFF) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:

As at the latest specified date for which information is available, what total number of farms that were allocated through the various programmes of his department (a) remained in production after purchase and (b) are not in production? NO1051E

★278. Mr M K Montwedi (EFF) to ask the Minister of Agriculture:

With reference to the livestock sector that is under tremendous pressure due to high feed prices which at times amount to 70% of production costs, what plans has he put in place to develop alternative feeds to assist the specified sector, in line with the recently released top 10 technologies by the World Economic Forum? NO1052E

★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

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

Whether Eskom intends to develop its own renewable energy division with proper infrastructure focusing on solar, wind and hydro-energy; if not, why not; if so, what preparations has the utility made to invest in research to improve the reliability of the specified division and its programmes? NO1054E

★281. Ms C N Mkhonto (EFF) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

What has she found to be the risks that may arise from the disruptions caused by the judgment of the Pretoria High Court which prevents the new service provider from rendering services for the Unemployment Insurance Fund online portal? NO1057E

★282. Ms C N Mkhonto (EFF) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

What is the total amount that her department used to upgrade and improve the functionality of its information and communication technology infrastructure in the past five financial years? NO1058E

★283. Ms L Managa (EFF) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

What measures has his department put in place to combat land pollution in the Republic's cities, townships and villages? NO1059E

★284. Ms L Managa (EFF) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

With reference to the former Minister's reply to question 1973 on 7 March 2018, which outlines the measures to ensure compliance by the tyre waste depots, what has he found to be the compliance rate of the various tyre waste depots and (b) additional measures does he intend to put in place to ensure compliance at various tyre waste depots?

NO1060E

★285. Mr M A Maimane (BOSA) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

What (a) are the details of the current targets she has set for the implementation of the National Development Plan's vision of a 6% unemployment rate by 2030 and (b) progress has been made in reaching these targets?

NO1061E

★286. Mr M A Maimane (BOSA) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

With reference to her Budget Vote speech made on 11 July 2024, wherein she stated that the department through the Labour Activation Programme (LAP) intends to recruit 360 000 unemployed people into skills development and employability enhancement programmes that will guarantee their employment at the end of their training period, what is the (a) total number of unemployed people that have been recruited since then and (b) projected number of recruitments to be made by the end of 2024?

NO1062E

★287. Ms N L Webster (BOSA) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

What progress has she and/or her department made in ensuring that jobs created through the various government programmes are sustainable and for a long term?

NO1063E

★288. Ms N L Webster (BOSA) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:

(a) What total number of small-, medium- and micro enterprises (SMMEs) currently employ more than 10 persons in the Republic and (b) how is her department actively working with SMMEs to ensure that they are creating sustainable and long-term employment?

NO1064E

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

Whether, with reference to the devastating collapse of the building in George and the subsequent loss of employees, she will provide an update on (a) the nationalities of the specified victims and (b) if the specified victims were registered for the Unemployment Insurance Fund and Compensation Fund; if not, why not, in each case; if so, what are the relevant details in each case?

NO1069E

★290. Ms E Freeman (PA) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

What steps have been taken by his department to improve internet (a) access and (b) affordability for all citizens?

NO1070E

★291. Mr G F Jonas (PA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

What steps does he intend to take to deal with instances where fishing communities have been prohibited to apply for fishing rights?

NO1071E

★292. Ms S G Khojane (PA) to ask the Minister of Electricity and Energy:

What specific measures and long-term strategies will his department implement to effectively address and prevent load shedding by ensuring a stable and reliable power supply, given the significant negative impact load shedding has had on millions of citizens?

NO1072E

★293. Ms J S Petersen (PA) to ask the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources:

What is the latest progress of his department on developing the oil and gas sector, including efforts to promote the exploration and production of oil and gas?

NO1073E

★294. Ms K de Bruin (PA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

What has (a) been the progress on the implementation of the Public Procurement Act, Act 28 of 2024, and (b) he found to have been its impact on transparency and accountability?

NO1077E