



[NO. 01-2018] Fifth Session, Fifth Legislature

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**QUESTION PAPER FOR ORAL REPLY
TO THE PREMIER**

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QUESTIONS DAY: 08 MAY 2018, 14:15

Note:

1. + Indicates translated version.
2. *Indicates a question for oral reply.
3. ■ Indicates a written question transferred for oral reply.
4. *In terms of Rule 105 (4) the Secretary must select the names so submitted at random in a manner that is fair, and must place not more than 6 names so selected or such other number as may be determined by the Speaker from time to time, in the order selected but subject to sub-rule (5), on the Order Paper on the last working day of the Legislature preceding the Tuesday in question.*

Rule 105 (5) states that if more than two names of members who represent the same political party in the Legislature are selected as provided above, only the first two selected must be included in the names placed on the Order Paper, and if the name which according to the selection is to appear first on the Order Paper is that of a member belonging to the Premier's party, that name must be interchanged on the Order Paper with the first succeeding name of a member who does not belong to that party.

1. *Hon. RJ Sithole, DA, to ask the Hon. Premier

With regards to the Rapid Implementation Unit inside your Office, can the Hon. Premier please answer the following:

- i. Can the Premier please indicate to the House when the unit was established, and divulge its actual mandate?
- ii. How much money has the unit spent since its inception?
- iii. How does the unit identify which projects it would like to "hijack" (for a lack of a better word)?
- iv. Does the unit always follow Supply Chain Management, PFMA and Treasury Regulation prescripts when looking for service providers?
- v. Can the Premier please share some of the successes that have been achieved by the unit?

2. *Hon. MC Sedibe, EFF, to ask the Hon. Premier

Honourable Premier now that you have been elected constitutionally to discharge your duties in Mpumalanga, it is expected of you to exercise your prerogative in the running of the province and ensure that the principles of good governance are adhered to. Moreover, this province has been beset by draconian laws like the moratorium of vacancies from time immemorial. Could you please assist in these questions:

- i. What would you do to mitigate on this issue?
- ii. There is a problem of unemployment, don't you think that this will unburden the province if this clause or rule is set aside?
- iii. Given the fact that you are not a Member of the Executive of the Governing Party would you be bold enough to execute your duties without consulting them?
- iv. Cadre deployment in most of the government departments has been legendary what would you do to avert this and employ people based on their competencies?

3. *Hon. JJ Skhosana, ANC, to ask Hon. Premier.

In 2014 the ANC decided to dedicate its Manifesto to Isithalandwe Tata Nelson Mandela under the theme "Together we move South Africa forward", it has been declared as a year of Nelson Mandela to honour Nelson Mandela and his true values:

- i. Can the Premier broadly educate the people of Mpumalanga on the core values and principles Dr. Nelson Mandela represented in society?
- ii. What are the critical programs the ANC-led government will undertake to honour our icon in the year of 2018 where we celebrate his life?
- iii. Since we have come to almost the end of the 2014 Manifesto period, can the Premier outline the key developmental and service delivery successes made to the people of Mpumalanga in implementation of the ANC Manifesto goals?
- iv. What are the major challenges faced by this administration and how will it navigate against those challenges beyond the current administration?
- v. Our revered former Premier DD Mabuza has been at the helm of the Provincial Government since 2009 and has been appointed the Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa. What are the great lessons, attributes and political admirations we can draw as from the inspirational record and the legacy of Hon. DD Mabuza as former Premier of the Province?

4. *Hon. TS Khoza, ANC, to ask Hon. Premier.

The National Assembly Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) received a progress report on the implementation of forensic investigations that were instituted against a number of municipalities across the country:

- i. Can the Hon. Premier indicate if we have municipalities in the Province and how many are they who are part of those affected by the forensic investigations as stipulated above?
- ii. Since the forensic investigations were instituted in 2009 by National COGTA, how have the municipalities in the Province improved their governance challenges over the years?
- iii. In Mpumalanga, according to the 2016/17 Auditor General's Report Prohibited Expenditure in Municipalities escalated from **R 9.679 billion** to **R 12.109 billion** from previous financial year due to slow progress in finalizing investigations and lack of consequence management within our municipalities. What decisive action is the Premier taking to address this unacceptable situation?
- iv. Which municipalities are the major culprits in these violations and what are the main reasons for such governance failures in our municipalities?
- v. Can the Premier also update people of the Province on the progress government is making to fulfil the ESKOM debt agreement made with various municipalities in Mpumalanga?

5. *Hon. B Grobler, DA, to ask the Hon. Premier

With regards to the recent case where you took the former Premier Mr Phosa to court on a charge of defamation of character, in relation to a report that fingers you as an Apartheid Spy and the subsequent judgement from said case, can the Premier please answer the following:

- i. When you took the case to court, did you do so under your personal capacity (DD Mabuza vs M Phosa), or did you do it under the banner of the Office of the Premier (Premier Mabuza vs M Phosa)?
- ii. Where did the Premier seek legal opinion on the matter?

Was it from state lawyer, or his personal lawyer?
- iii. How is it that the Premier feels vindicated when he lost the case against Mr Phosa with costs?

- iv. How much in total did a legal related matter cost the Premier in this case, and where did the Premier source the funds to pay the lawyer (Was it from his own pocket or that of the state.)
- v. Seeing as the judgement indicated that Mr Mabuza should pay all of Mr Phosa's legal costs, how much were said legal cost and where did the Premier source the funds to make the payment (Was it form his own pocket or that of the state.)

6. * Hon. MC Sedibe, EFF, to ask the Hon. Premier

Premier your first election as an acting Premier was marred with constitutional bungles as a result it has to be redone despite the opposition parties advice that the former Premier does not have the right to appoint you because it is unconstitutional:

- i. What about the costs that have been incurred because of your party's intransigence?
- ii. Who is going to be responsible for those costs?
- iii. How much was wasted in that particular illegal sitting?
- iv. When the Auditor General for this financial year 2017/2018 learns about this financial irregularity would you personally be held responsible or you would shift the blame to someone else?

7. *Hon. BD Dube, ANC, to ask Hon. Premier.

Mpumalanga Government has proven itself to be having great interest in the development of our agricultural economy. The Marapyane Farmers Training Centre and the reopening of Elijah Mango College are in the centre of this positive development:

- i. Can the Honourable Premier update us on the development of infrastructure at these Agricultural Institutions?
- ii. How many small scale farmers are receiving training in these institutions, if any?
- iii. How many jobs are already created since the establishment of the Marapyane Training Centre in particular?

8. *Hon. SPD Skhosana, ANC, to ask Hon. Premier.

Our government through the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Affairs, has a Technology Research and Development Program which is to provide agricultural research services and also give appropriate agricultural technology to improve productivity in both crop and animal production:

- i. Can the Hon. Premier give us a progress report on the Nooitgedacht Research Facility in Msukaligwa Municipality?
- ii. What is done to ensure technology driven Farmers Support activities, e.g. soil analysis laboratory and the development of key skills in special areas of research in agriculture?
- iii. What do we expect to achieve from the Nooitgedacht Research Facility after its completion?

9. *Hon. SJ Masango, DA, to ask the Hon. Premier

In keeping with protests which turned violent in eMbalenhle, Govan Mbeki during October 2017, can the Premier please answer the following questions:

- i. Why did the community of eMbalenhle go into a violent protest, burning municipal property and the private property of former Municipal Manager?
- ii. In keeping with municipal infrastructure, what was the total cost of damages to the municipality?
- iii. Service delivery has been hampered by the burning down of municipal property. What mechanisms are there to restore the damage to the property?
- iv. Since there are no pay points in eMbalenhle, has the municipality put in temporary pay points so that loyal customers can pay their debt?
- v. What mechanisms are there to prevent such from occurring in the future?

10. *Hon. P Ngobeni, ANC, to ask Hon. Premier

The socio-economic conditions of our communities are dependent on infrastructure development and bringing services closer to them. NDP, PDP and IDP are all required to interlink and ensure that their plans are integrated. Government has a responsibility to maintain and service those infrastructures. However, there seems to be confusion on the owning of responsibilities amongst our spheres of government:

- i. Who provides technical and maintenance services to clinics, halls and other government infrastructures, is it the responsibility of the provincial department or the municipality?
- ii. Does government have a clear policy with regard to the confusion stated above?
- iii. There are community halls that are in a dilapidating state, especially Mgobodzi Hall was damaged by storm four years back but nothing is being done. Can the Hon Premier provide clarity in this regard?

11. *Hon RJ Sithole, DA, to ask the Hon. Premier

With regards to the implementation of the norms and standards for education infrastructure can the Premier please indicate the following:

- i. To date how many schools in Mpumalanga have been provided with sanitation facilities and how many still need to be provided with sanitation facilities?
- ii. How many learners will benefit from the newly constructed sanitation facilities?
- iii. What was the cost to construct the newly built sanitation facilities?
- iv. Are all newly constructed sanitation facilities in Mpumalanga schools fully operational? If not, why not?
- v. When does government foresee all newly constructed sanitation facilities to be fully operational in Mpumalanga Schools?

12.*Hon. DP Manana, ANC, to ask Hon. Premier

The words of the late struggle stalwarts, and former President Nelson Mandela where he said “education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”, resonate with government top priority on education. The scholar transport was introduced for easy access to school especially for learners residing far from school. However, the safety of learners should take precedence. Some scholar transport for an example around Badplass farms are not in a good condition:

- i. Is the Premier aware that some buses are not in good condition to ferry learners around the province?
- ii. Can the Premier provide an insight into the quality of scholar transport around the province?
- iii. How are some of the scholar transport buses assessed to ascertain whether they are roadworthy and who is responsible for this?
- iv. What steps are being taken by the provincial government where a scholar transport contractor is transporting learners with transport that is not roadworthy?

13.*Hon. GC Shabalala, ANC, to ask Hon. Premier

Poor operation and maintenance of sewage treatment infrastructure is a cause for concern in South Africa which might result in devastating implications on the environment and health status of the nation. The former Premier DD Mabuza made a call for Govan Mbeki Local Municipality to deal with the sewer problems. Research surfaced that there are a number of affected areas within the areas for an example eMalahleni:

- i. On the basis of the above, can the Premier provide an overview on the extent of sewer problems in Mpumalanga?
- ii. Can the Premier reflect on any integrated strategy in place and the allocation of resources to deal with the sewer spillage problems in the Province?
- iii. Is there any stipulated or set time frame to deal with the sewer problems in the province?

14.*Hon. SJ Masango, DA, to ask the Hon. Premier

During the audit of eMalahleni for the 2016/17 financial year, the Auditor General expressed concerns surrounding the state of finances in eMalahleni Local Municipality, based on this, can the Hon. Premier please answer the following:

- i. In June 2017, the municipality's current liabilities exceeded its assets by R1.8 billion. Given this and the operating loss the municipality incurred, why has this municipality not been placed under administration yet?
- ii. Since this audit, what has been done to correct the financial position of the municipality?
- iii. Hon. Premier, on the topic of financial administration, I have written to the MEC and also engaged you. The IMSP, dedicated municipal managers and other plans were spoken of at the time for not placing these municipalities under administration. Given this poor audit outcome, how have these plans improved the financial position of eMalahleni Local Municipality?
- iv. Given that as at June 2017, R2.8 billion was owed to eMalahleni, how have these plans helped the municipality collect revenue?
- v. Lastly, will the Premier or MEC consider placing the municipality under administration given the poor state of finances in eMalahleni?

15.*Hon. AM Gamede, ANC, to ask Hon. Premier.

During 2017 State of the Province Address, a decision was taken to introduce the Government Nutrition Programme aimed at revitalizing agriculture in Mpumalanga. This opened the door for small and emerging farmers to supply fresh produce directly to government institutions like schools, hospitals etc. The policy decision was further followed by an already under construction Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market where emerging farmers will be able to supply:

- i. What strategy is government going to implement in ensuring that the previously marginalized enter the market, especially blacks?
- ii. There have been reports that some group within communities demand that suppliers of nutrition programs be local people even though there is no proven experience in that field, they do not want an outside supplier. How is government going to address this?
- iii. How is government going to ensure that those emerging farmers survive and stay in this market?

16.*Hon. BD Dube, ANC, to ask Hon. Premier

Government has an obligation to deliver services to the people and in doing so proper planning is critical. The increase in population density requires more infrastructure. This has been evident in some schools, hospitals around Nelspruit and other areas where population density outnumber the available socio-economic infrastructure:

- i. Relating to the above, can the Premier elaborate on the steps taken before departments embark on Strategic Planning Sessions or Annual Performance Plans?
- ii. Can the Premier briefly explain some of the constraints experienced by government regarding the maintenance of existing socio-economic infrastructure *vis-a-vis* construction of new ones?
- iii. Can the Premier briefly indicate some of the multi-year socio-economic infrastructure projects like clinics, schools, police stations, hospitals etc, especially in areas where there is an influx due to economic activities?

17.*Hon. FV Mlombo, ANC, to ask Hon. Premier.

It is now quite some time since a group of farm workers at Umbaba Estate were dismissed. Many channels were followed in an attempt to resolve this matter including the Office of the Premier:

- i. Is there any progress in resolving this matter?
- ii. If yes, can the Hon. Premier give us a progress report on this burning issue?
- iii. Is there any material help or support given to the affected families so far?

18.*Hon. P Ngobeni, ANC, to ask the Hon. Premier

During the 2018 State of the Province Address, the Honourable Premier indicated that government will prioritize key projects that will address sewer spillage and respond to bulk water infrastructure and sanitation needs in a number of municipalities in the Province:

- i. Are there any plans in place to address the above challenges so far?
- ii. If yes, can the Hon. Premier elaborate on that?
- iii. Are there any time frames to address the above serious concerns?
- iv. If yes, can the Hon. Premier also elaborate on that?

19.*Hon. JL Nghondzweni, ANC, to ask the Hon. Premier

The Department of Human Settlements has built quite a number of better settlements in most areas of eMalahleni Municipality. The example of this is the beauty we see in Klarinet and Siyanqoba areas to mention just a few:

- i. Is the Honourable Premier aware of the fact that most of these houses do not belong to their rightful owners?
- ii. Can the Honourable Premier elaborate on that?
- iii. Some of these houses are already cracking, what could be an immediate solution to this challenge?
- iv. How is the department attending to the challenges of water and electricity in this area?

20.*Hon. TS Khoza, ANC, to ask Hon. Premier.

The adopted Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (PGDS) in our Province sets the framework to guide the development of Mpumalanga Province:

- i. What are the cornerstones of the development strategy as envisaged in the PGDS of the Province?
- ii. Since its adoption as a developmental path in Mpumalanga, what are the areas of success we can draw from our PGDS? What challenges are faced and how are we responding to those challenges?
- iii. Regarding institutional ability to monitor and evaluate our developmental agenda, what are the available instruments in the Province to monitor and evaluate government implementation of its programs?
- iv. If such monitoring and evaluation measures are there, how do they relate to government execution of its plans at a local level?

21.*Hon. FV Mlombo, ANC, to ask Hon. Premier.

Mining accounts for more than 26% of the provincial economy in Mpumalanga yet the industry continue being engulfed by instability as a result of labour unrest, lower international commodity prices. Currently some mines, i.e. Optimum Mine owned by the GUPTA family through Tegeta Exploration and Resources (Pty) Ltd, faces closure and our people losing jobs:

- i. What action is the Provincial Government taking to interact with relevant stakeholders to avert any job loses the eminent closure of the mines belonging to GUPTA companies?
- ii. Generally what role is the Provincial and Local Government playing in the oversight of the mining operations taking place in our Province?
- iii. Local community beneficiation is a major concern in all areas surrounded by mines, what is the Provincial Government role in this regard?
- iv. Is there any relationship between Provincial, Local and Department of Mineral Resources on matters of mining in the Province, if yes, what are the fundamental aspect of such a relationship?
- v. How far is the Provincial Government in the implementation of the ANC resolution to establish a Provincial State Mining Company?

22.*Hon. JJ Skhosana, ANC, to ask Hon. Premier.

The ANC in its 54th Elective Conference took a historic resolution to fundamentally address the land and agrarian question in South Africa through resolving on Land Expropriation without compensation, which subsequently led to Parliament in its sitting resolving to amend the Constitution in order to give effect to this milestone resolution:

- i. Can the Premier broadly outline the positive impact land expropriation will bring to landless people of Mpumalanga?
- ii. Can the Premier also give a detail breakdown of land ownership patterns in Mpumalanga in terms of race, gender, foreign and South Africans and finally land owned by Traditional Authorities?
- iii. Given the ANC resolve that land expropriation should not damage agriculture and food security but also should lead to economic growth, can the Premier reflect on government experience on productivity of land which have already transferred to claimants in Mpumalanga. What measures government is taking to mitigate any negative impact identified through land transferred in the hands of the people?
- iv. Regarding the challenges faced by communities with regard to land ownership and control by Trusts in the Province, what is the intervention government is making to address concerns about management of claimed land by Trusts.

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