



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
HEALTH

Office of the MEC for Health

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TO : HANSARD AND HOUSE BUSINESS

FROM : MEC FOR HEALTH

SUBJECT : RESPONSES TO IQP NO 10 WITH QUESTION NO 245 & 246 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

245. Ms J Cowley to ask the MEC responsible for Health:

Noting that a clinic was allegedly built by the Sarah Baartman District Municipality in the Baviaanskloof several years ago, further noting that the clinic has allegedly never been operational and the community of Baviaanskloof has only ever received healthcare services from a mobile clinic, further noting that the mobile clinic service has now reportedly stopped operating due to staff and vehicle shortages, further noting that patients from Baviaanskloof are now reportedly required to travel for two or more hours in order to access health care at Willowmore at a cost of R150 per trip, further noting that this is alleged to be a very expensive financial outlay for the community as they are either pensioners or they are indigent and lastly noting that the clinics and hospitals at Steytlerville, Willowmore and Rietbron allegedly still do not have access to Doctors as the vacant medical officer posts at the Willowmore Hospital have yet to be filled:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
(1) What immediate steps her Department anticipates will be taken with a view to ensuring that the clinic at Baviaanskloof becomes operational so that the entire Baviaanskloof community can access healthcare services without having to travel vast distances;	The department has been experiencing challenges with placing staff in the area during to its rural nature (no network coverage no phones or television reception and bad road infrastructure). The department's plan to bring services to this area is to utilize the structure as a satellite clinic twice a week with effect from 01 July 2021 after recruitment processes have been finalized for 83 Professional Nurses (one for mobile and the other two to run the clinic).
(2) what interim steps her Department envisages will be taken with a view to	Three nurses recently been interviewed by the district and are envisaged to start on 01 July

ensuring that mobile clinic services are resumed for this community as a matter of urgency;	2021. One of the 3 nurses will resume the mobile clinic services.
(3) what is the current status of the vacant posts for medical officers at the Willowmore Hospital, as these doctors are allegedly also responsible for outreach to clinics in Rietbron and Steytlerville who are also reported to be currently without any doctors?	<p>The organogram of Willowmore Hospital provides for 4 medical officers. However, the headcount of the facility which averages below 50 per day then means the facility can be efficiently managed by two Medical Officers.</p> <p>The hospital has 2 medical officers one of which is leaving on 31 May 2021. A second Medical Officer is due to be interviewed in the first week of June 2021. Both these doctors will be conducting outreach to clinics in the Baviaanskloof area.</p>

246. Ms J Cowley to ask the MEC responsible for Health:

Noting that the Department of Health is reportedly facing a severe financial crisis as a result of contingent liability which currently stands at approximately R37 billion, accruals in excess of R4 billion at the end of the 2020/2021 financial year and the fact that at least 10% of this year's budget was already spent before the financial year commenced:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
(1) What total amount has her Department paid for medico-legal claims in the 2020/21 financial year as at the latest specified date for which information is available;	The Department has paid R921,188,186.84 for medico-legal claims in the 2020/21 financial year as at 31 March 2021 for which information is available
(2) what was the total value of accruals owed by her Department as at the end of March 2021;	The unaudited Accruals and Payables for Goods and Services are R4,037 billion. This figure is being verified by HO Finance Team at districts and institutions and the final figure will be disclosed in 2020/21 Annual Financial Statements to be submitted to the Auditor General for audit on 31 May 2021
(3) what is the value of accruals owed by her Department to date;	The To-Date Accruals and Payables (which is April 2021) will be available on 21 May 2021
(4) of the total her Department's budget for the 2021/22 financial year of R26 billion, how much does her Department realistically have in order to function in the current financial year, excluding extra COVID-19 funding and after the pre-financial year spend, the settlement of accruals and the payment of medico-legal claims;	Of the total budget for the Department for the 2021/22 financial year of R26,5 billion, it is estimated that in real terms, the Department realistically has approximately R22,3 billion in order to function in the current financial year, primarily as a result of projected payables and accruals of R4.4 billion vesting at year end as well as unfunded and unbudgeted medico legal settlements.
(5) what percentage of the remaining budget (excluding COVID-19 funding) her Department anticipates will be spent on	Of the remaining budget, the Department anticipates spending 80% on personnel costs (split medical and allied personnel: 80.15%; non-

(a) administration, (b) non-medical personnel, (c) medical personnel and (d) goods and services?	medical personnel: 19.85%) 7% on goods & services, 6% on transfers & subsidies and 7% on payments for capital assets
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