

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 2474

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 30 AUGUST 2022
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 27)

Mr P van Staden (FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Health:

- (1) What (a) is the current backlog of surgeries in all government hospitals, (b) types of surgeries are in the backlog, (c) is the period and/or duration of each type of backlog and (d)(i) actions are being put in place to eradicate the backlog and (ii) are the timeframes in this regard;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

NW2920E

REPLY:

Surgeries are conducted at facility level and the information is also collected at these facilities. The Provincial Departments of Health provided the information as follows for all hospitals with backlogs

- (a) Table 1 below provides total number of backlogs on surgeries.

Province	Total number of backlogs on surgeries
Eastern Cape	5373
Free State	2947
Gauteng	13433
KwaZulu Natal	17906
Limpopo	45690
Mpumalanga	3005
Northwest	5531
Northern Cape	4000
Western Cape	77139

The information above and provided for the Eastern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal, Northwest, Northern Cape and Western Cape was last updated in the past two (2) months. These Provinces had not updated their information at the time of requesting it for this response and have been requested to do so. Only Free State, Limpopo and Mpumalanga were able to provide updated information.

Eastern Cape Province	Hospital Name	(b)Surgery Discipline	(c) Duration of backlog
	Nelson Mandela Academic Livingstone Port Elizabeth Provincial Frere Hospital Cecilia Makiwane Dora Nginza Frontier	Orthopaedics	Not specified
		Obstetrics and Gynaecology	Not specified
		General Surgery	Not specified
		Ophthalmology	Not specified
		Urology	Not specified
		Plastic Surgery	Not specified

		Paediatric surgery	Not specified
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Eastern Cape Province	(d)(i) What actions are being put in place to eradicate the backlog?	(d)(ii) What are the timeframes in this regard?
	<u>Optimising Efficiency</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Moratorium on elective surgery was lifted in 2021 ▪ Monthly monitoring of the waiting period ▪ The hospitals have rescheduled all non-emergency operations ▪ Providing theatre services during the weekends and extended hours to reduce backlogs 	Cannot be pre-determined as prioritization is done in terms of urgency, status of the patient and surgical procedure to be conducted.

Free State Province	Hospital Name	(b)Surgery Discipline	(c) Duration of backlog
	Manapo Universitas Pelonomi Bongani Boitumelo Dihlabeng	Orthopaedics	3 months to 4years
		Obstetrics and Gynaecology	8 months
		General Surgery	3 to 8 months
		Ophthalmology	3 years
		Urology	6 months
		Plastic Surgery	8 months
		Cardio Thoracic	6 months
		Oncology	Not specified

Free State Province	(d)(i) What steps have been taken to deal with the backlogs	(d)(ii) What are the timeframes in this regard?
	<u>Optimising Efficiency</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monthly monitoring of waiting period. ▪ Marathons arranged if department notices backlog ▪ Patient education to ensure patients show up for appointments ▪ A team on call for emergency theatres ▪ Sometimes using theatre at private hospitals ▪ Increase of theatre time ▪ Prioritizing according to severity or quality of life ▪ Conducting Blitz over weekends ▪ Outreach to district hospitals. <u>Human Resource</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruitment of additional staff 	Cannot be pre-determined as prioritization is done in terms of urgency, status of the patient and surgical procedure to be conducted.

Gauteng Province	Hospital Name	(b)Surgery Discipline	(c) Duration of backlog
	Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic hospital, Charlotte Maxeke Academic hospital, Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital, Steve Biko Academic Hospital, Tembisa Provincial Tertiary Hospital, Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital, Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital	Orthopaedics	2 weeks to 7 years
		Obstetrics and Gynaecology	2 weeks to 2 years
		General Surgery	2 weeks to 2 years
		Paediatric Surgery	3 weeks to 1 year
		Ophthalmology	6 months to 1 year
		Urology	1 month to 1 year
		Plastic Surgery	3 months to 2 years
		Neurosurgery	3 weeks to 3 months
		ENT	2 weeks to 9 months
		Cardio Thoracic	3 to 6 months
		Maxillo Facial	Not specified

Gauteng Province	(d)(i) What steps have been taken to deal with the backlogs	(d)(ii) What are the timeframes in this regard?
	<p><u>Optimising Efficiency</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ District outreach surgical teams provide services once a week per quarter and spent time in a district conducting various surgeries using all hospitals (Rural Health Matters campaign). ▪ A team of volunteers (orthopaedics and anaesthetics) from other provinces form part of the outreach teams. ▪ Introduce electronic theatre booking system ▪ Re-purposed COVID wards to increase post-operative care space ▪ Dedicate specific “catch-up” days e.g., surgical cataract. ▪ Rescheduling of elective surgeries; Planning to increase High Care Unit beds. <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Theatre has fourteen (14)posts recruitment activated 4 vacant consultant posts and 6 registrar post (Maternity) and 4 vacant medical officer posts (Interviewed April and awaiting appointment). ▪ Appointed a dedicated clinical Manager to oversee all 46 theatre efficiencies. ▪ Beefing up of human resource through sessional appointments for specialists and nursing agencies for nurses. ▪ Through the National Health Insurance Grant, public patients are taken to accredited private service providers (hospitals) where surgery is conducted as part of addressing the surgical backlog. <p><u>Infrastructure, Maintenance And Equipment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Renovation of theatres to increase the number of functional theatres. 	Cannot be pre-determined as prioritization is done in terms of urgency, status of the patient and surgical procedure to be conducted.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contractors sourced to repair and maintain tunnel washers ▪ Contractor appointed for repair and maintained autoclaves 	
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KwaZulu Natal Province	Hospital Name	(b)Surgery Discipline	(c) Duration of backlog
	Madadeni Hospital	Orthopaedics	6 months to 2 years
	King Edward Hospital	Obstetrics and Gynaecology	3 to 6 months
	RK Khan Hospital	General Surgery	6 months to 1 year
	Ngwelezana Hospital	Urology	12 months to 3 years
	Port Shepstone Regional	Plastic Surgery	Not specified
	Murchison Hospital	Neurosurgery	Not specified
	GJ Crookes Hospital	ENT	6 months to 1 year
	Grey's Hospital		
Harry Gwala Regional Hospital			
Northdale Hospital			
Manguzi Hospital			
Mosvold Hospital			
Ladysmith Regional Hospital			

KwaZulu Natal	(d)(i) What actions are being put in place to eradicate the backlog?	(d)(ii) What are the timeframes in this regard?
	<p><u>Optimising Efficiency</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Catch up has been done by increasing theatre times ▪ Elective slates done over the weekend to catch up. Camps have also been planned ▪ Increase theatre times ▪ Use after hours to reduce backlog ▪ Elective theatre slates run even after hours ▪ Electives commenced in 2021 ▪ Emergencies are given priority ▪ Maximum utilization of theatres with added slates on weekends. ▪ Weekend camps are planned ▪ The hospital is increasing theatre time. Additional days added ▪ Weekend cataract camps held to reduce the backlog ▪ Additional half day theatre planned for every Thursday ▪ No waiting for emergencies or malignancies as these were all done under emergency slates. No new dates given but electives are called back according to priority and bed availability. ▪ For Gastrointestinal Tract (GIT) 	<p>Cannot be pre-determined as prioritization is done in terms of urgency, status of the patient and surgical procedure to be conducted.</p>

	<p>procedures i.e., endoscopy and colonoscopy- are limited to emergencies only, e.g., GI bleeds, malignancy and selected elective cases after discussion with a specialist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is a plan to conduct a marathon (i.e., Request for two theatres to do only elective cases) ▪ Theatre time increased 	
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Limpopo Province	Hospital Names	(b)Discipline	(c) Duration of backlog
	Groblersdal	Orthopaedics	12 months to 2 years
	Jane Furse	Obstetrics and Gynaecology	6 to 12 months
	Mecklenburg	General Surgery	12 months
	Philadelphia	Ophthalmology	4 years
	Mokopane, Philadelphia	Urology	12 months
	St Ritas	Plastic Surgery	12 months
	Letaba,	Neurosurgery	5 years
	Van Velden	ENT	6 months
	Dr CN Phatudi	Maxillo Facial	12 months
	Kgapane		
	Nkhensani		
	Maphuta Malatji		
	Thabazimbi		
	Lephalale		
	George Masebe		
	Witpoort		
	Bela-Bela		
	Voortrekker		
	FH Odendaal		
	Botlokwa		
	Helen Franz		
	Seshego		
	Lebowakgomo		
	Thabamopo		
	WF Knobel		
	Zebediela		
	Tshilidzini		
	Elim		
	Donald Frazer		
	Siloam		
	Malamulele		
	Messina		
	Mankweng		
	Pietersburg		

Limpopo Province	(d)(i) What steps have been taken to deal with the backlogs	(d)(ii) What are the timeframes in this regard?
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	<p><u>Optimising Efficiency</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Groups of in-house specialists and volunteers from other provinces visit a district at a time to conduct elective surgeries in obstetrics and Gynaecology (hysterectomy), general surgery (mastectomy and thyroidectomy every quarter ▪ From May 2022, monthly outreach services under the theme "Rural Health Matters" for urology (prostate and hydrocoele), orthopaedic (hip replacement and knee surgery), Paediatric, maxillo-facial and cataract extraction ▪ Specific month's focus is the Programme from 13th- 21st August 2022 in Waterberg District where 428 surgeries conducted. <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Through the National Health Insurance Grant, public patients are taken to accredited private service providers (hospitals) where surgery is conducted as part of addressing the surgical backlog. 	<p>Cannot be pre-determined as prioritization is done in terms of urgency, status of the patient and surgical procedure to be conducted.</p>
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Mpumalanga Province	Hospital Name	(b)Surgery Discipline	(c) Duration of backlog
	Rob Ferreira Witbank Mapulaneng Themba Ermelo	Orthopaedics	3 to 6 months
		Obstetrics and Gynaecology	2 to 3 months
		General Surgery	2 months
		Ophthalmology	3 to 9 months
		Urology	Not specified
		ENT	Not specified

Mpumalanga	(d)(i) What steps have been taken to deal with the backlogs	(d)(ii) What are the timeframes in this regard?
	<p><u>Optimising Efficiency</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Orthopedic surgeries are also conducted on weekends, ▪ Cataract increased theatre times to two days per week, ▪ Operationalization the 7 theatres and 2 emergency theatres, ▪ Allocation of an extra theatre per department and increase the theatre time, ▪ Developed and implementing marathons over weekends, ▪ Increased outreach to districts <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Headhunting a second Orthopedic Surgeon for the Province, and an Ophthalmologist has commenced ▪ A plan for a planned Orthopaedic Marathon is in process, ▪ Month of October planned for Ophthalmology marathon. ▪ Recruitment processes for General Surgeon is also underway 	Cannot be pre-determined as prioritization is done in terms of urgency, status of the patient and surgical procedure to be conducted.

Northern Cape Province	Hospital Name	(b)Surgery Discipline	(c) Duration of backlog
	Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe	Orthopaedics	2 days to 3 months
		Obstetrics and Gyanaecology	Not specified
		General Surgery	Not specified
		Ophthalmology	2 to 3 years
		Urology	8 months to 1 year
		Plastic Surgery	Not specified
		ENT	Not specified
		Maxillo Facial	Not specified

Northern Cape Province	(d)(i) What actions are being put in place to eradicate the backlog?	(d)(ii) What are the timeframes in this regard?
	<p><u>Optimising Efficiency</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The suspension of non -emergency cases was lifted in 2021 ▪ The tertiary hospitals conduct outreach service where minor orthopaedic operations in the district hospitals are performed (Upington, ZK Matthews and De Aar) <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruitment of specialists, especially anaesthetists 	Cannot be pre-determined as prioritization is done in terms of urgency, status of the patient and surgical procedure to be conducted.

Northwest	Hospital Name	(b)Surgery Discipline	(c) Duration of
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Province			backlog
	Klerksdorp/Tshepong Job Shimankana Tabane Mafikeng Provincial Joe Morolong Memorial Potchefstroom	Orthopaedics	3 years
		Obstetrics and Gynaecology	6 months
		General Surgery	6 months
		Urology	6 months
		ENT	6 months
		Ophthalmology	7 months

Northwest Province	(d)(i) What actions are being put in place to eradicate the backlog?	(d)(ii) What are the timeframes in this regard?
	<u>Optimising Efficiency</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation of surgical blitz ▪ Providing theatre services during the weekends and extended hours to reduce backlogs ▪ Utilization of all available theatres to improve efficiency <u>Human Resources</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public/Private partnership where it is feasible 	Cannot be pre-determined as prioritization is done in terms of urgency, status of the patient and surgical procedure to be conducted.

Western Cape Province	Hospital Name	(b)Surgery Discipline	(c) Duration of backlog
	Alan Blyth Hospital	Orthopaedics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Backlogs on elective surgery have been building up over the past (two)2 and a half year due to the COVID pandemic. ▪ There is not a set waiting list being kept for elective theatre lists. ▪ Patients are booked 6 months in advance as well as according to capacity. They are also constantly being reviewed.
	Beaufort West	Obstetrics and	
	BreedeValey	Gyanaecology	
	Caledon	General Surgery	
	Ceres	Ophthalmology	
	Citrusdarl	Urology	
	Clanwilliam	Plastic Surgery	
	Eerste River	Neurosurgery	
	False Bay	Oncology	
	George		
	Groote Schuur		
	Helderberg		
	Hermanus		
	Karl Bremer		
	Khayelitsha		
	Knysna		
	Laingsburg		
	Mitchells Plain		
	Montagu		
	Mossel Bay		
	Murraysburg		
	New Somerset		
	Otto du Plessis		
	Oudtshoorn		
	Paarl		
	Prince Albert		
	Red Croos War Memorial Children		
	Riversdale		
	Robertson		
	Stellenbosch		
	Swartland		
	Swellendam		
	Tygerburg		
	Victoria		
	Vredenburg		
	Vredendal		
	Wesfleur		
	Worcester		

Western Cape Province	(d)(i) What actions are being put in place to eradicate the backlog?	(d)(ii) What are the timeframes in this regard?
	<u>Optimisation of Efficiency</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The province allocated an additional R 20 million from internal prioritization of funds to deal with backlogs. ▪ The Province is also increasing day surgery activities as far as possible, and this will assist us in dealing with backlogs ▪ The Province also procured two (2) surgical robots at a cost of R 80 million, this will reduce the recovery time and allow patients to be discharged earlier. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elective cases are being discussed with specialists as they present again. ▪ Patients are booked 6 months in advance as well as according to capacity. They are also constantly being reviewed.

(2) No I will not make a statement on this matter.
END.