

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION: 772

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 12)

Mrs M O Clarke (DA) to ask the Minister of Health:

- (1) What is the current vacancy rate for each medical profession, including but not limited to (a) doctors, (b) nurses, (c) physiotherapists, (d) occupational therapists, (e) psychiatrists, (f) psychologists, (g) environmental health practitioners and (h) community health workers;
- (2) (a) when will the vacancies for each of the above be filled and (b) what is the allotted budget for each of the provinces towards filling these vacancies? NW950E

REPLY:

- (1) The table below reflects vacancy rates as provided by provinces with the Nurses being a consolidated rate across the 3 different categories of nurses (namely: Professional, Registered and Assistant).

PROVINCIAL VACANCY RATES (%)									
Category	EC	FS	GP	KZN	LP	MP	NC	NW	WC
Medical Officers	15.0	23.7	11.4	4.9	20.37	9.62	15.2	22.0	5.85
Nurses	9.0	26.5	11.2	11.2	2.96	8.0	17.4	39.0	7.39
Physiotherapist	18.0	38.8	11.0	10.4	2.03	7.0	11.8	26.0	1.73
Occupational Therapist	26.0	39.7	14.3	27.7	3.36	16.0	30.3	56.0	10.5
Psychologist	17.0	17.7	21.4	36.3	4.55	7.0	41.7	61.0**	9.90
Psychiatrist	20.0*	30.0*		15.4	87.9	73.0	50.0	50.0	8.89
Environmental Health Pract.	14.0	25.5	8.9	12.6	6.90	7.0	11.1	13.0	N/A

* Rate reflecting Medical Specialists combined

**Inclusive of the Vocational Counsellors

Community Health Workers are contract workers that are appointed on annual contract against abnormal appointments (extra ordinary staff) and vacancy rate not applicable. Furthermore, in the Western Cape the category is appointed through agency and NGO organisation and not accounted for directly under the department.

Provincial Departments are in the process of identifying positions which will be filled during the 2024/25 financial year through the Annual Recruitment Plan (ARP). Once the process is concluded and costed, within the available budget, provinces will be in a position to indicate which positions will be filled by when and recruit accordingly with adverts. There

has also been ongoing communication with Provincial Departments of Health to establish the extent of the challenges experienced in this regard.

Table 1: Compensation of employees allocation to provinces

R Thousands	Financial Year	
Programme	2023/24 Adjusted appropriation	2024/25 Revised Baseline
Eastern Cape	20 028 901	20 011 717
Free State	8 961 049	9 516 387
Gauteng	38 159 905	40 078 685
KwaZulu-Natal	33 031 152	32 976 479
Limpopo	16 441 824	17 351 170
Mpumalanga	10 927 652	11 706 368
Northern Cape	3 767 510	3 740 702
North west	10 567 007	11 281 207
Western Cape	17 340 851	18 055 309
Total	159 225 851	164 718 024

END.