



MINISTER
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER: 4204

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4204. Ms B S Masango (DA) to ask the Minister of Social Development:

- (1) What is the total number and ages of children who were abandoned (a) in (i) 2020, (ii) 2021, (iii) 2022, (iv) 2023 and (v) 2024 and (b) from 1 January 2025 up to the latest specified date for which information is available.
- (2) in which (a) area and/or province, including but not limited to, (b) police stations, (c) clinics, (d) social services centres and (e) any other sort of establishments were the children abandoned in each case?

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REPLY

1. The National Child Protection Register, which is a register that keeps record of all child abuse cases, with the following categories: sexual abuse, deliberate neglect, physical abuse, emotional abuse, and abandonment. It must be noted that the reported cases are not a true reflection of the extent of child abuse in the country as there is poor reporting, however the following number of cases of abandonment were recorded during the following financial years as outlined below:
 - (a)
 - (i) In 2020 a total of 230 children were abandoned
 - (ii) In 2021 a total of 168 children were abandoned
 - (iii) In 2022 a total of 360 children were abandoned
 - (iv) In 2023 a total of 59 children were abandoned
 - (v) In 2024 a total of 87 children were abandoned
 - (b) In January 2025 to March 2025, a total of 99 children were abandoned



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(2) At the time of response, no provincial inputs have been received.