# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 2489**

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**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 35)**

**Ms D Carter (Cope) to ask the Minister of Health:**

(1) In view of the Esidimeni incident which resulted in unnecessary deaths within the most vulnerable sector within our society, what steps has he taken to (a) safeguard the wellbeing of the remaining former patients of the Life Healthcare Esidimeni Hospital and (b) ensure a transparent and unbiased investigation into the circumstances around the deaths of the 36 psychiatric patients;

(2) what assurances can he give that there will be accountability and consequences, including criminal prosecutions, regarding the matter?

###### NW2871E

**REPLY:**

(1) As you might have heard Honourable Member, I have asked the Health Ombudsperson to conduct a thorough investigation into the matter. However, as immediate steps to avoid further deaths, I sent teams out visit the NGOs where deaths have occurred, and even others that were new, to assess the safety of the patients that are still alive, in order to take appropriate steps to ensure their safety.

(2) I am currently awaiting the outcome of the investigation by the Health Ombudsperson in order to determine what further interventions are required and should be taken regarding this matter.

END.