**DETERMINATION OF CLUSTERS FOR QUESTIONS IN LINE WITH COVID-19 PRIORITIES**

**Background:**

1. In accordance with Assembly Rule 138(1), questions for oral reply by ministers must be dealt with in accordance with a clustered system of government portfolios as determined by the Rules Committee.
2. On 7 May 2020, the National Assembly Programme Committee decided that, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the determination of the clusters must be referred to the Rules Committee.
3. The current clustering of government portfolios in the National Assembly is:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CLUSTER 1: PCE & SEC** | **CLUSTER 2: SOC SERV** | **CLUSTER 3: GOV** | **CLUSTER 4: ECONOMICS** | **CLUSTER 5: ECONOMICS** |
| Defence & MVs | Basic Education | COGTA | Agr R D & Land Ref | Public Enterprises |
| Home Affairs | Health | Min in the Presidency | Communications | Public Works % Infrastructure |
| Intl Relations & Coop | Higher Ed, Sc & T | MIP: Wom, Y&PwD | Employment and Labour | Small Business Development |
| Justice & Corr Serv | Human Settlements, W&S | Public Serv & Adm | Env Aff, For & Fish | Tourism |
| Police | Social Development |  | Finance | Trade and Industry |
| State Security | Sports, Arts & Cult |  | Min Res & Energy | Transport |

1. The following government portfolios were identified as priority areas with regard to the response to the pandemic:
2. Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
3. Health
4. Police
5. Trade and Industry
6. Joint Standing Committee on Defence and Military Veterans
7. Basic Education
8. Higher Education, Science and Technology
9. Transport
10. Small Business Development
11. Finance
12. Appropriations
13. Employment and Labour
14. Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation
15. Social Development
16. Justice and Correctional Services
17. Home Affairs

**Option:**

1. Given the identified critical portfolios for the Covid-19 response, the clustering system below could be considered.
2. Each cluster will have seven portfolios.

**Proposed Clusters**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CLUSTER 1** | **CLUSTER 2** | **CLUSTER 3** | **CLUSTER 4** |
| Health | Defence & MVs | Public Serv & Adm | Sports, Arts & Cult |
| COGTA | Police | Home Affairs | Agr R D & Land Ref |
| Human SW&S | Social Dev | Justice & Corr Serv | Env Aff, For & Fish |
| Small Business D | Trade & Industry | Public Enterprises | Communications |
| Employment & L | Transport | Min Res & Energy | Tourism |
| Finance | Higher Ed Sc & T | Intl Rels & Coop | Min in The Presid |
| Basic Education | Public Works & Infr | State Security | MIP: Wom, Y&PwD |