# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 1338**

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**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 14)**

**Ms N N Chirwa (EFF) to ask the Minister of Health:**

Noting the remarks by the Auditor-General that the administration of the Eastern Cape Department of Health is in crisis, what intervention measures has he put in place to resolve the specified crisis in the specified province?

###### NW1476E

**REPLY:**

The Eastern Cape Department of Health has put together a Health Turn-Around Plan consisting of six pillars to address the administrative challenges of the EC DOH. The strategies outlined in the plan envisage collaboration with and seeking assistance from other government departments and the Office of the Premier as well as external stakeholders including private sector, communities and academic institutions. The plan gives a detailed outline of the strategies and the support required from each of these stakeholders. The pillars of the plan are summarised below.

**PILLARS OF THE EC HEALTH TURNAROUND PLAN AND STRATEGIC SUPPORT**

1. **Financial sustainability initiative**: This pillar addresses the EC DOH financial discipline and wellness; looking at strategies to take department beyond compliance and towards social entrepreneurship. Strategies to address this pillar include a) revenue generation, b) introducing efficiencies, c) management of cost-drivers and d) management of debt and unauthorised expenditure.
2. **Medico-legal intervention**: addresses the following strategic objectives i.e
3. Stopping haemorrhage of funds
4. Strengthening case management
5. Developing Medico-Legal litigation expertise
6. Manage unauthorised expenditure associated Medico-Legal (ML) settlements
7. **Service delivery optimisation pillar** focuses on:
8. Service Optomisation Implementation Planning
9. HR Intervention to promote SDO
10. Securing buy-in from key stakeholders
11. **Digitalisation and eHealth:** This pillar addresses issues of inadequate capacity to track all debts against the department, insufficient staff and budget to electronically capture and store of maternity medical records on HMS2 module. Support services are manual therefore labour-intensive, cumbersome and prone to human error and broadband to critical sites slow. Alternative solutions are required in the interim to gain last mile connectivity.
12. **Clinical - Healthy Communities Initiatives:** has four strategic objectives which are:
13. National Health Insurance (NHI) implementation through ward-based community outreach teams
14. Primary Health Care (PHC) Approach of inter-sectoral collaboration
15. Addressing Burden of Disease
16. Integrated Development Planning
17. **The Foundation Pillar** purports to strengthen Leadership and Management Capability and improves stakeholder trust and confidence in the EC healthcare system. The key focus areas are valued employees, capable teams, effective leadership and communication & change management.

END.