**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 1388**

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**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER 14 – 2021**

**1388. Mr S Tambo (EFF) to ask the Minister of Home Affairs:**

What safety measures has he put in place to guarantee the safety of citizens at the Local Government Election polls in October this year? NW1582E

**REPLY:**

 The question was referred to the Electoral Commission which has responded as follows:

The Electoral Commission in consultation with the National Party Liaison Committee (NPLC) has agreed on a voting station COVID protocol which, inter alia, provides the following measures:

1. The mandatory wearing of masks within the perimeter of the voting stations
2. Enforcement of social distancing on queues at the voting stations
3. Mandatory sanitizing of hands at entrance and exit of voting station
4. Encouraging voters to bring own pens to the voting stations even though pens will be provided and sanitised.
5. Where the size of the voting station is small, allowing a single party agent per party
6. Providing Personal Protection Equipment for voting officials at all voting stations and during home visit special votes.

Additional measures are currently being discussed within the auspices of the NPLC. Once a common view emerges and budget permitting these measures will be presented to the Commission for consideration and possible approval.

**END**