

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

# QUESTION NO. 1445

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## INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER 18 OF 2017

**1445. Mr M Waters (DA) to ask the Minister of Home Affairs:**

(1) What are the reasons that South African citizens who are born outside the Republic have to wait six months for an identification document;

(2) has the new smart card ID computer programme been updated in order to allow naturalised South African citizens to obtain the new smart card ID; if not, by what date will the specified computer programme be updated; if so, what are the relevant details? NW1587E

**REPLY:**

1. Cases that may last longer than the prescribed turnaround time of 54 days for the issuing of an identity document and 47 days for requests for re-issue are those that do not meet the requirements or those under investigations where the client may be required to furnish additional information. This process applies to qualifying citizens including naturalised citizens. Documents attached by naturalised citizens are required to be verified before the processing and issuing of an identity document and it is always endeavoured to conclude the process within the specified set time frames.

(2) No. The Department continues to rollout the issuance of smart ID Cards in a phased- in approach. The process of expanding the Live Capture footprint and the verification process of the records for naturalised citizens are ongoing as are the system upgrades which will make provision for this category of applicants. Upon determination of adequate footprint and system status readiness, the Minister will make an announcement which will give naturalised citizens the opportunity to apply for Smart ID Cards.