Official reply: 10 June 2016

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION 1480/2016**

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

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**1480. Ms E R Wilson (DA) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

(1) How many doctors who have been approved by the SA Social Security Agency (SASSA) (a) are currently registered in each province, (b) have not yet renewed their contracts with SASSA and (c) still have to sign contracts with SASSA;

(2) (a) how many disability grant applicants are waiting the processing of their medical certificates by SASSA-approved doctors in each province and (b) what percentage of the total number of applicants for the specified grant do the figures represent in each case?

**Reply:**

1. As of 23 May 2016 SASSA had a total of 339 contracted active medical assessors on its database nationally.

(a) The provincial spread of SASSA contracted assessors (doctors) is as below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Province** | **Contracted Doctors** |
| Eastern Cape | 13 |
| Free State | 31 |
| Gauteng | 71 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 75 |
| Limpopo | 39 |
| Mpumalanga | 31 |
| Northern Cape | 48 |
| North West | 27 |
| Western Cape | 4 |
| **TOTAL**  | **339**  |

(b) 8 doctors have not renewed their contracts.

(c) 14 doctors still have to sign their contracts

2. (a)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Province** | **Awaiting Assessment**  |
| Eastern Cape | 0 |
| Free State | 3 800 |
| Gauteng | 3661 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 7587 |
| Limpopo | 2322 |
| Mpumalanga | 1755 |
| Northern Cape | 150 |
| North West | 893 |
| Western Cape | 6797  |
| **TOTAL**  | **26 965** |

In the Eastern Cape and the Western Cape it should be noted that assessments are largely conducted by the Department of Health doctors and SASSA merely contracts doctors where the Department of Health does not have the capacity to support social assistance disability assessments.

 (b) SASSA assessed a total of 660 773 clients for social assistance disability during the 2015/ 2016 financial year, subsequent to them being booked for such assessments with a SASSA contracted medical assessor. The number of total

 booked clients currently at SASSA nationally is 26 965 and the number reduces on

 daily basis as SASSA conducts assessments continuously. None of the clients will be

 booked more than 30 days from the booking date with about 95% to be assessed

 within 2 weeks.