# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 1492**

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**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 15)**

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

What is the reason that his department has published new regulations under the National Health Act, Act 61 of 2003, which will effectively be a long-term replacement of the Republic’s state of disaster COVID-19 regulations?

###### NW1651E

**REPLY:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had multiple adverse social and economic impacts on our people. The pandemic has created important lessons that should inform our policy actions and decision making going forward. The dissolution of the National State of Disaster by the President on 5th April 2022 necessitates that government retains the necessary mechanisms and levers that can be proactively utilised in the management of future COVID-19 and other types of similar future pandemics and notifiable medical conditions.

In this respect, and to ensure there are enough legislative and regulatory measures to manage the current and future outbreaks, the National Department of Health published the draft regulations under the [National Health Act](https://www.citizen.co.za/news/south-africa/3037452/new-health-laws-being-drawn-up-to-end-state-of-disaster/) (61 of 2003) and International Health Regulations Act (28 of 1974). The objective of these draft regulations is to create transparent and structured measures which include the surveillance and the control of notifiable medical conditions; public health measures in points of entry; management of human remains; and regulations relating to environmental health. These draft regulations are not in any way intended to allow for the long-term replacement of the dissolved State of Disaster regulations as it pertains to the COVID-19 pandemic.

END.