**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER: 1558**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 29 APRIL 2022**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NUMBER: 15 - 2022**

**1558. Mr B S Madlingozi (EFF) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

What was the vision and/or plan of the Government when it funded the studies of social workers at universities as the majority of social workers who have completed their studies are idling at home unemployed?NW1883E

**REPLY:**

1. The Social Work Scholarship Programme was implemented to increase the human resource capacity of the social work profession employed to deliver developmental social welfare services.
2. The Scholarship Programme stipulated conditions for funding and employment of social work graduates where-
3. Students were to serve the Department of Social Development, NGO or any department in any capacity for which the department concerned or NGO may consider suitable, for a continuous period of number of years sponsored plus one extra year.
4. The department did not guarantee employment of graduates upon completion of their studies.
5. Opportunities for employment within DSD were to be guided by availability of posts, funds and departmental recruitment processes for all employees.
6. In the event the Department failed to appoint students on its establishment within six (6) months after completion of their studies, students would be entitled to take any social work job offers available from sector employers.