# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTENREPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 1563**

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**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 26)**

**Mrs C C S Motsepe (EFF) to ask the Minister of Health:**

(1) What steps has he taken to regulate the price that is charged for Covid-19 testing;

(2) whether he has found that it is in the best interest of the health of the nation at the moment for people to pay to get tested for Covid-19; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

###### NW1939E

**REPLY:**

1. There are no regulations that allow for capping of prices in the private sector. Discussions have been held with the private laboratories to bring down their prices. The private laboratories were charging different prices, with some charging up to R1,400 per test. Following these discussions all private laboratories reduced their prices to R850 per test.
2. Free testing in the private sector will be difficult as private laboratories have to recover their costs. In the public sector patients do not pay if they are not on medical aid.

END.