# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 1716**

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**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 14)**

**Mr M G P Lekota (Cope) to ask the Minister of Health:**

Whether he had taken any action to engage the Government of the Eastern Cape to reverse its decision not to provide private clinics and pharmacies with free state-issued vaccines considering that this would impact negatively on poor working mothers who could not sacrifice being away from work and that it constituted a denial of right for children not to access vaccines in the most convenient way possible; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details and the outcome thereof?

###### NW1934E

**REPLY:**

The Eastern Cape Province is considering this matter and will be making a decision shortly.

The key imperatives in considering this matter are:

1. Our policy to provide Primary Health Care free at the point of delivery; and
2. The need to increase our EPI coverage in a manner that also makes access to immunization services as easy as possible.

END.