

**MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY: REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER: 209**

**DATE OF PUBLICATIONS: 11 February 2021**

**Mr J J McGluwa (DA) to ask the Minister in The Presidency:**

1. Whether, with reference to the expansion of the State’s capacity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, which gave cause for the Level 5 lockdown under the regulations, will her Office furnish Mr J J McGluwa with the full details of all state funded initiatives for the expansion of the response capacity to the COVID-19 pandemic in each province and the costs thereof since 25 March 2020; if not, why not; if so, (a) who has a final say in respect of the contents of the COVID-19 regulations, (b) what methodology is employed to decide on the contents of the regulations, (c) what is the nature of the evidence that is considered to formulate the regulations, (d) how is the credibility and scientific or other expert evidence determined and (e) what quality control measures have been put in place;
2. what measures are in place to ensure (a) transparency in execution of the functions mentioned above and (b) that citizens are able to exercise their rights as provided for terms of section 34 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996?

**REPLY**

1. Yes, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) allocated funding from existing grants within the department in support of service delivery programmes as well as to augment the resources made available by affected organs of state from their own resources on the efforts to combat the spread of covid-19 pandemic. The details of the disaster management funded initiatives for the augmentation of the response capacity to the COVID-19 pandemic in each province and the costs thereof since 25 March 2021 are as follows:

An amount of R466 392 000 (R466.4 million) from the Provincial Disaster Relief Grant was transferred in March 2020 to the Departments of Health in all provinces primarily for the procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Ventilators.

**Table 1: funding allocation to Provincial Departments of Health for Covid-19 response measures: Provincial Disaster Relief Grant- 2019/2020 FY**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Province** | **Amounts allocated to Provincial Departments of Health** |
|  | Eastern Cape | R 44 551 000 |
|  | Free State | R 12 429 000 |
|  | Gauteng | R115 996 000 |
|  | KwaZulu-Natal | R138 918 000 |
|  | Limpopo | R 42 449 000 |
|  | Mpumalanga | R 33 993 000 |
|  | Northern Cape | R 6 224 000 |
|  | North West | R 18 540 000 |
|  | Western Cape | R 53 292 000 |
|  | **Total** | **R466 392 000** |

An amount of R150 970 000 (R151 million) from the Municipal Disaster Relief Grant was transferred in May 2020 to 246 municipalities in all provinces primarily for Covid-19 response measures. The priority areas for allocated funding were (i) Sanitation, (ii) Waste Management, (iii) Decontamination of specific selected public spaces, (iv) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and (v) Hygiene packs.

**Table 2: funding allocation to 246 municipalities in all provinces for Covid-19 response measures: Municipal Disaster Relief Grant- 2020/2021 FY**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Province** | **No. of municipalities funded** | **Amounts allocated to local municipalities within respective provinces** |
|  | Eastern Cape | 37 | R42 787 000 |
|  | Free State | 22 | R 8 610 000 |
|  | Gauteng | 8 | R 5 276 000 |
|  | KwaZulu-Natal | 53 | R47 499 000 |
|  | Mpumalanga | 17 | R 9 596 000 |
|  | Limpopo | 27 | R14 579 000 |
|  | Northern Cape | 31 | R 3 137 000 |
|  | North West | 22 | R11 559 000 |
|  | Western Cape | 29 | R 7 927 000 |
|  | **Total** | **246** | **R150 970 000** |

In May 2020, The National Treasury has given the Department of Cooperative Governance approval for municipalities to reprioritise their 2019/20 Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) allocations, for urgent repairs to water and sanitation infrastructure, to improve their functionality in reliable delivery of basic services. A total of 335 projects were reprioritised to the value of R1.6 billion, with 187 projects under construction and 51 completed to date (See attached document for provincial details).

The reprioritisation by municipalities in 2020/21 financial year has been very low, with only 109 projects registered for implementation. The approval granted by the National Treasury in July 2020 indicated that of municipal MIG allocations can be reprioritised for urgent repairs to water and sanitation infrastructure to improve functionality of infrastructure, and a further 10% for sanitisation of public transport facilities, which includes repairs to municipal owned quarantine sites. The total value of these projects, as per municipal

applications, is R474, 595,236. A total of 50 projects are currently under implementation and 9 are completed to date (See table below for provincial details).





In terms of sub-question:

1. Cabinet.
2. The National Corona-Virus Command Council (NCCC) receives reports from the NATJOINTS and the Ministerial Advisory Committee (MACs). It considers the reports and deliberates on the required regulations and formulates a recommendation to Cabinet.
3. The following factors, amongst others, play a key role in the determination of the regulations:

(i) the extent of the rate of infection (e.g. number of active cases per 100 000 population, rate of increase / decrease of active cases etc).

(ii) the readiness of the health system to cope with the number of infections (e.g. availability of hospital beds, number of health care workers infected etc.);

(iii) the advice and analysis of the Minster of Health’s Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC), made up of a wide range of science and health experts and the NATJOINTS, made up of the Directors-General of the respective national sector departments.

1. The scientific evidence is quality assured by the MAC against peer reviewed publications of research conducted, where such publication is available.
2. The decisions of Cabinet on the content of the regulations are drafted in the correct layout by legislative drafters, which are legally vetted by the Office of the Chief State Law Adviser, before it is signed by the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs for publication in the Gazette to give it the force of law.

(2)(a) All approved regulations are published in the Government Gazette. Before the publication in the Gazette, where major changes to regulations are to come into effect, often the President addresses the nation on those changes. After the publication in the Gazette, the Minister of COGTA leads media briefings involving other relevant ministers on the contents of Regulations.

(b) Section 34 of the Constitution guarantees the right of access to courts. The courts have remained operational during the declaration of the national state of disaster. To manage the spread of the virus, directions were issued by the

Minister of Justice and Correctional services and directives were issues by Heads of Courts.

Thank you.