# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 2356**

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**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 22)**

**Dr H C Volmink (DA) to ask the Minister of Health:**

(1) What is the current availability of the drugs (a) bedaquiline and (b) linezolid in the country;

(2) whether there are any plans for a wider national roll-out of the specified drugs, including but not limited to (i) mines, (ii) prisons and (iii) other communities heavily affected by tuberculosis;

(3) whether there are any financing plans in place for purchasing the specified drugs at affordable and sustainable prices?

###### NW2717E

**REPLY:**

1. (a) 60% of patients on bedaquiline are in South Africa, i.e 361 patients in South Africa out of a total of 600 worldwide.

(b) A tender to procure Linezolid is being prepared. Linezolid is available off code in the meantime.

1. (i) and (ii) For year 1 (1st April 2015 to 31 March 2016) we are prioritising XDR-TB, pre-XDR-TB and MRD-TB with hearing impairment, renal impairment and those to be operated.

Because the main focus will be on XDR-TB, we have started rolling out at our 12 facilities responsible for treating XDR-TB which are:

* Jose Pearson and Fort Grey Hospitals (Eastern Cape);
* Dr J S Moroka (Free State);
* Sizwe Hospital (Gauteng);
* King Dinuzulu Complex Hospital (KZN);
* FH Odendaal (Limpopo);
* Witbank TB Hospital (Mpumalanga);
* Dr Harry Surtie and West End (Northern Cape);
* Tshepong Hospital (North West);
* Brooklyn Chest and Khayelitsha (Western Cape)

The 12 facilities treat all XDR-TB patients in the country.

* Jose Pearson, Fort Grey, King Dinuzulu, Sizwe and Brooklyn Chest Hospitals treat 50% to 60% of all MDR-TB in the country.
* So we believe that there will be a good coverage to years 1, 2 and 3;
* Mines and prisons will follow after 2 to 3 years.
1. A costed plan to make the drugs available has been developed and budgeted for in the HIV Conditional Grant. The drugs will be made available to 3 000 patients in year 1 (1st April 2015 to 31 March 2016), and then gradually increase to 6 000 at the end of year 3.

END.