# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 2474**

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**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 27)**

**Mr P van Staden (FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Health:**

(1) What (a) is the current backlog of surgeries in all government hospitals, (b) types of surgeries are in the backlog, (c) is the period and/or duration of each type of backlog and (d)(i) actions are being put in place to eradicate the backlog and (ii) are the timeframes in this regard;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? **NW2920E**

**REPLY:**

Surgeries are conducted at facility level and the information is also collected at these facilities. The Provincial Departments of Health provided the information as follows for all hospitals with backlogs

1. Table 1 below provides total number of backlogs on surgeries.

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| **Province** | **Total number of backlogs on surgeries** |
| Eastern Cape | 5373 |
| Free State | 2947 |
| Gauteng | 13433 |
| KwaZulu Natal | 17906 |
| Limpopo | 45690 |
| Mpumalanga | 3005 |
| Northwest | 5531 |
| Northern Cape | 4000 |
| Western Cape | 77139 |

The information above and provided for the Eastern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal, Northwest, Northern Cape and Western Cape was last updated in the past two (2) months. These Provinces had not updated their information at the time of requesting it for this response and have been requested to do so. Only Free State, Limpopo and Mpumalanga were able to provide updated information.

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| **Eastern Cape Province** | Hospital Name | (b)Surgery Discipline | (c) Duration of backlog |
|  | Nelson Mandela Academic  Livingstone  Port Elizabeth Provincial  Frere Hospital  Cecilia Makiwane  Dora Nginza  Frontier | Orthopaedics | Not specified |
| Obstetrics and Gynaecology | Not specified |
| General Surgery | Not specified |
| Ophthalmology | Not specified |
| Urology | Not specified |
| Plastic Surgery | Not specified |
| Paediatric surgery | Not specified |

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| **Eastern Cape Province** | (d)(i) What actions are being put in place to eradicate the backlog? | (d)(ii) What are the timeframes in this regard? |
|  | Optimising Efficiency   * Moratorium on elective surgery was lifted in 2021 * Monthly monitoring of the waiting period * The hospitals have rescheduled all non-emergency operations * Providing theatre services during the weekends and extended hours to reduce backlogs | Cannot be pre-determined as prioritization is done in terms of urgency, status of the patient and surgical procedure to be conducted. |

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| **Free State Province** | Hospital Name | (b)Surgery Discipline | (c) Duration of backlog |
|  | Manapo  Universitas  Pelonomi  Bongani  Boitumelo  Dihlabeng | Orthopaedics | 3 months to 4years |
| Obstetrics and Gynaecology | 8 months |
| General Surgery | 3 to 8 months |
| Opthalmology | 3 years |
| Urology | 6 months |
| Plastic Surgery | 8 months |
| Cardio Thoracic | 6 months |
| Oncology | Not specified |

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| **Free State Province** | (d)(i) What steps have been taken to deal with the backlogs | (d)(ii) What are the timeframes in this regard? |
|  | Optimising Efficiency   * Monthly monitoring of waiting period. * Marathons arranged if department notices backlog * Patient education to ensure patients show up for appointments * A team on call for emergency theatres * Sometimes using theatre at private hospitals * Increase of theatre time * Prioritizing according to severity or quality of life * Conducting Blitz over weekends * Outreach to district hospitals.   Human Resource   * Recruitment of additional staff | Cannot be pre-determined as prioritization is done in terms of urgency, status of the patient and surgical procedure to be conducted. |

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| **Gauteng Province** | Hospital Name | (b)Surgery Discipline | (c) Duration of backlog |
|  | Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic hospital,  Charlotte Maxeke Academic hospital,  Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital,  Steve Biko Academic Hospital,  Tembisa Provincial Tertiary Hospital,  Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital,  Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital | Orthopaedics | 2 weeks to 7 years |
| Obstetrics and Gynaecology | 2 weeks to 2 years |
| General Surgery | 2 weeks to 2 years |
| Paediatric Surgery | 3 weeks to 1 year |
| Opthalmology | 6 months to 1 year |
| Urology | 1 month to 1 year |
| Plastic Surgery | 3 months to 2 years |
| Neurosurgery | 3 weeks to 3 months |
| ENT | 2 weeks to 9 months |
| Cardio Thoracic | 3 to 6 months |
| Maxillo Facial | Not specified |
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| **Gauteng Province** | (d)(i) What steps have been taken to deal with the backlogs | (d)(ii) What are the timeframes in this regard? |
|  | Optimising Efficiency   * District outreach surgical teams provide services once a week per quarter and spent time in a district conducting various surgeries using all hospitals (Rural Health Matters campaign). * A team of volunteers (orthopaedics and anaesthetics) from other provinces form part of the outreach teams. * Introduce electronic theatre booking system * Re-purposed COVID wards to increase post-operative care space * Dedicate specific “catch-up” days e.g., surgical cataract. * Rescheduling of elective surgeries; Planning to increase High Care Unit beds.   Human Resources   * Theatre has fourteen (14)posts recruitment activated 4 vacant consultant posts and 6 registrar post (Maternity) and 4 vacant medical officer posts (Interviewed April and awaiting appointment). * Appointed a dedicated clinical Manager to oversee all 46 theatre efficiencies. * Beefing up of human resource through sessional appointments for specialists and nursing agencies for nurses. * Through the National Health Insurance Grant, public patients are taken to accredited private service providers (hospitals) where surgery is conducted as part of addressing the surgical backlog.   Infrastructure, Maintenance And Equipment   * Renovation of theatres to increase the number of functional theatres. * Contractors sourced to repair and maintain tunnel washers * Contractor appointed for repair and maintained autoclaves | Cannot be pre-determined as prioritization is done in terms of urgency, status of the patient and surgical procedure to be conducted. |

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| **KwaZulu Natal Province** | Hospital Name | (b)Surgery Discipline | (c) Duration of backlog |
|  | Madadeni Hospital  King Edward Hospital  RK Khan Hospital  Ngwelezana Hospital  Port Shepstone Regional  Murchison Hospital  GJ Crookes Hospital  Grey’s Hospital  Harry Gwala Regional Hospital  Northdale Hospital  Manguzi Hospital  Mosvold Hospital  Ladysmith Regional Hospital | Orthopaedics | 6 months to 2 years |
| Obstetrics and Gynaecology | 3 to 6 months |
| General Surgery | 6 months to 1 year |
| Urology | 12 months to 3 years |
| Plastic Surgery | Not specified |
| Neurosurgery | Not specified |
| ENT | 6 months to 1 year |

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| **KwaZulu Natal** | (d)(i) What actions are being put in place to eradicate the backlog? | (d)(ii) What are the timeframes in this regard? |
|  | Optimising Efficiency   * Catch up has been done by increasing theatre times * Elective slates done over the weekend to catch up. Camps have also been planned * Increase theatre times * Use after hours to reduce backlog * Elective theatre slates run even after hours * Electives commenced in 2021 * Emergencies are given priority * Maximum utilization of theatres with added slates on weekends. * Weekend camps are planned * The hospital is increasing theatre time. Additional days added * Weekend cataract camps held to reduce the backlog * Additional half day theatre planned for every Thursday * No waiting for emergencies or malignancies as these were all done under emergency slates. No new dates given but electives are called back according to priority and bed availability. * For Gastrointestinal Tract (GIT) procedures i.e., endoscopy and colonoscopy- are limited to emergencies only, e.g., GI bleeds, malignancy and selected elective cases after discussion with a specialist. * There is a plan to conduct a marathon (i.e., Request for two theatres to do only elective cases) * Theatre time increased | Cannot be pre-determined as prioritization is done in terms of urgency, status of the patient and surgical procedure to be conducted. |

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| **Limpopo Province** | Hospital Names | (b)Discipline | (c) Duration of backlog |
|  | Groblersdal  Jane Furse  Mecklenburg  Philadelphia  Mokopane,  Philadelphia  St Ritas  Letaba,  Van Velden  Dr CN Phatudi  Kgapane  Nkhensani  Maphuta Malatji  Thabazimbi  Lephalale  George Masebe  Witpoort  Bela-Bela  Voortrekker  FH Odendaal  Botlokwa  Helen Franz  Seshego  Lebowakgomo  Thabamoopo  WF Knobel  Zebediela  Tshilidzini  Elim  Donald Frazer  Siloam  Malamulele  Messina  Mankweng  Pietersburg | Orthopaedics | 12 months to 2 years |
| Obstetrics and Gynaecology | 6 to 12 months |
| General Surgery | 12 months |
| Opthalmology | 4 years |
| Urology | 12 months |
| Plastic Surgery | 12 months |
| Neurosurgery | 5 years |
| ENT | 6 months |
| Maxillo Facial | 12 months |
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| **Limpopo Province** | (d)(i) What steps have been taken to deal with the backlogs | (d)(ii) What are the timeframes in this regard? |
|  | Optimising Efficiency   * Groups of in-house specialists and volunteers from other provinces visit a district at a time to conduct elective surgeries in obstetrics and Gynaecology   (hysterectomy), general surgery (mastectomy and thyroidectomy every quarter   * From May 2022, monthly outreach services under the theme "Rural Health Matters" for urology (prostrate and hydrocoele), orthopaedic (hip replacement and knee surgery), Paediatric, maxillo-facial and cataract extraction * Specific month's focus is the Programme from 13th- 21st August 2022 in Waterberg District where 428 surgeries conducted**.**   Human Resources   * Through the National Health Insurance Grant, public patients are taken to accredited private service providers (hospitals) where surgery is conducted as part of addressing the surgical backlog. | Cannot be pre-determined as prioritization is done in terms of urgency, status of the patient and surgical procedure to be conducted. |

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| **Mpumalanga Province** | Hospital Name | (b)Surgery Discipline | (c) Duration of backlog |
|  | Rob Ferreira  Witbank  Mapulaneng  Themba  Ermelo | Orthopaedics | 3 to 6 months |
| Obstetrics and Gyanaecology | 2 to 3 months |
| General Surgery | 2 months |
| Opthalmology | 3 to 9 months |
| Urology | Not specified |
| ENT | Not specified |

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| **Mpumalanga** | (d)(i) What steps have been taken to deal with the backlogs | (d)(ii) What are the timeframes in this regard? |
|  | Optimising Efficiency   * Orthopedic surgeries are also conducted on weekends, * Cataract increased theatre times to two days per week, * Operationalization the 7 theatres and 2 emergency theatres, * Allocation of an extra theatre per department and increase the theatre time, * Developed and implementing marathons over weekends, * Increased outreach to districts   Human Resources   * Headhunting a second Orthopedic Surgeon for the Province, and an Ophthalmologist has commenced * A plan for a planned Orthopaedic Marathon is in process, * Month of October planned for Ophthalmology marathon. * Recruitment processes for General Surgeon is also underway | Cannot be pre-determined as prioritization is done in terms of urgency, status of the patient and surgical procedure to be conducted. |

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| **Northern Cape Province** | Hospital Name | (b)Surgery Discipline | (c) Duration of backlog |
|  | Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe | Orthopaedics | 2 days to 3 months |
| Obstetrics and Gyanaecology | Not specified |
| General Surgery | Not specified |
| Opthalmology | 2 to 3 years |
| Urology | 8 months to 1 year |
| Plastic Surgery | Not specified |
| ENT | Not specified |
| Maxillo Facial | Not specified |

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| **Northern Cape Province** | (d)(i) What actions are being put in place to eradicate the backlog? | (d)(ii) What are the timeframes in this regard? |
|  | Optimising Efficiency   * The suspension of non -emergency cases was lifted in 2021 * The tertiary hospitals conduct outreach service where minor orthopaedic operations in the district hospitals are performed (Upington, ZK Matthews and De Aar)   Human Resources   * Recruitment of specialists, especially anaesthetists | Cannot be pre-determined as prioritization is done in terms of urgency, status of the patient and surgical procedure to be conducted. |

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| **Northwest Province** | Hospital Name | (b)Surgery Discipline | (c) Duration of backlog |
|  | Klerksdorp/Tshepong  Job Shimankana Tabane  Mafikeng Provincial  Joe Morolong Memorial  Potchefstroom | Orthopaedics | 3 years |
| Obstetrics and Gynaecology | 6 months |
| General Surgery | 6 months |
| Urology | 6 months |
| ENT | 6 months |
| Opthalmology | 7 months |

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| **Northwest Province** | (d)(i) What actions are being put in place to eradicate the backlog? | (d)(ii) What are the timeframes in this regard? |
|  | Optimising Efficiency   * Implementation of surgical blitz * Providing theatre services during the weekends and extended hours to reduce backlogs * Utilization of all available theatres to improve efficiency   Human Resources   * Public/Private partnership where it is feasible | Cannot be pre-determined as prioritization is done in terms of urgency, status of the patient and surgical procedure to be conducted. |

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| **Western Cape Province** | Hospital Name | (b)Surgery Discipline | (c) Duration of backlog |
|  | Alan Blyth Hospital  Beaufort West  BreedeValey  Caledon  Ceres  Citrusdarl  Clanwilliam  Eerste River  False Bay  George  Groote Schuur  Helderberg  Hermanus  Karl Bremer  Khayelitsha  Knysna  Laingsburg  Mitchells Plain  Montagu  Mossel Bay  Murraysburg  New Somerset  Otto du Plessis  Oudtshoorn  Paarl  Prince Albert  Red Croos War Memorial Children  Riversdale  Robertson  Stellenbosch  Swartland  Swellendam  Tygerburg  Victoria  Vredenburg  Vredendal  Wesfleur  Worcester | Orthopaedics | * Backlogs on elective surgery have been building up over the past (two)2 and a half year due to the COVID pandemic. * There is not a set waiting list being kept for elective theatre lists. * Patients are booked 6 months in advance as well as according to capacity. They are also constantly being reviewed. |
| Obstetrics and Gyanaecology |
| General Surgery |
| Opthalmology |
| Urology |
| Plastic Surgery |
| Neurosurgery |
| Oncology |

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| **Western Cape Province** | (d)(i) What actions are being put in place to eradicate the backlog? | (d)(ii) What are the timeframes in this regard? |
|  | Optimisation of Efficiency   * The province allocated an additional R 20 million from internal prioritization of funds to deal with backlogs. * The Province is also increasing day surgery activities as far as possible, and this will assist us in dealing with backlogs * The Province also procured two (2) surgical robots at a cost of R 80 million, this will reduce the recovery time and allow patients to be discharged earlier. | * Elective cases are being discussed with specialists as they present again. * Patients are booked 6 months in advance as well as according to capacity. They are also constantly being reviewed. |

(2) No I will not make a statement on this matter.

END.