# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO: 2600 DATE OF QUESTION: 26 NOVEMBER 2021**

**DATE OF SUBMISSION: 10 DECEMBER 2021**

**Ms A L A Abrahams (DA) to ask the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services:**

1. What is the total number of (a) cases of abuse of the SA Social Security Agency Child Support Grant that have been referred for trial in each province since 1 January 2015 and (b) convictions regarding the specified offence in the specified period in each province;
2. whether there have been any penalties attached to the specified convictions; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
3. what is the total number of cases in this regard that are currently with the courts in each province?

# NW3076E

**REPLY:**

Although the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) has conducted prosecutions of various cases relating to South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) grants, it is only Gauteng (South Gauteng/Johannesburg), Kwa-Zulu Natal and the Eastern Cape (Mthatha) that have dealt with cases relating to the abuse of the SASSA Child Support Grants since January 2015.

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| **(1) (a) Number of cases referred for trial** | |
| Eastern Cape (Mthatha) | 23 |
| Kwa-Zulu Natal | 22 |
| Gauteng (Johannesburg) | 2 |

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| **(b) Number of convictions regarding specified offences** | |
| Eastern Cape (Mthatha) | 19 |
| Kwa-Zulu Natal | 4 |
| Gauteng (Johannesburg) | 0 |

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| **(2) Penalties attached to convictions attained** | |
| Mthatha | The various accused persons were convicted of contravening the provisions of the Transkei Penal Code, relating to fraudulent and/ or theft of child support grant.  Sentences imposed range as follows:  Direct terms of imprisonment (6 years and 8 years direct imprisonment terms); Wholly suspended sentences, whereby the Courts in some cases ordered the accused to pay back amounts defrauded/ stolen; term of imprisonment in terms of section 276 1(i) of CPA (correctional supervision); term of imprisonment with an  option to compensate the complainant. |
| KwaZulu-Natal | The various accused were convicted of fraud. |

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| **(2) Penalties attached to convictions attained** | |
|  | Sentences imposed were direct terms of imprisonment (3 years and  5 years direct imprisonment terms) |
| Gauteng  (Johannesburg) | The cases have not yet been finalised in court |

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| **(3) Total number of cases currently in court** | |
| Mthatha | 4 |
| Kwa-Zulu Natal | 15 |
| Gauteng (Johannesburg) | 1  It should be noted that charges were provisionally  withdrawn in respect of the second matter, pending finalisation of criminal investigations. |