# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 2862**

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**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 29)**

**Ms N N Chirwa (EFF) to ask the Minister of Health:**

(a) What are the reasons that medical students who were sent by his department to study in Russia are no longer receiving stipends, (b) on what date is it envisaged that the crisis will be resolved and (c) who has been held responsible for the negligence? **NW3462E**

**REPLY:**

The Provincial Departments of Health have provided the following information regarding the payment status of South African Citizen students who pursuing medical studies in Russia:

| **Name Provinces** | **Student sent to Russia**  **Yes/No** | **Stipends being paid**  **Yes/No** | **When will the crisis be solved** | **Who has been held accountable** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Eastern Cape | No | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable |
| Free State | Yes | All active students in Russia are receiving stipends as authorization was given for the whole financial year 2022/23. | No crisis. | Not applicable |
| Gauteng | No | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable |
| KwaZulu-Natal | No | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable |
| Limpopo | No | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable |
| Mpumalanga | Yes  229 | 32 of the 229 students not paid. Reason for delayed payments is due to the fact that these students have technical glitches with their banking details and they are already in Russia and the Province is exploring ways to process payments | Students were advised to open Digital banking accounts through e.g. Tymes bank in order to be able to send the bank confirmation letter for payment through BAS(Basic Accounting System). Once bank confirmations are received, the stipends will be paid accordingly for the 32 students. | No one as the challenge was not caused by employees. |
| Northern Cape | No | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable |
| North West | No | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable |
| Western Cape | No | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable |

END.