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**Memorandum from the Parliamentary Office**

**Minister**

**National Assembly question Oral Reply: Question 3598**

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**Mrs. W.R. Tshabalala**

**DDG: STEE**

**Date:**

**Recommended / Not Recommended**

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**Dr Clarence Tshitereke**

**Acting Director-General: Department of Women**

………………/………………/2017

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER: 3598**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 03 NOVEMBER 2017**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NUMBER: 41 - 2017**

**3598. Ms T Stander (DA) to ask the Minister of Women in the Presidency:**

Whether her department has put any mechanisms and/or programmes in place to combat the practices of (a) female gender mutilation, (b) forced marriages and (c) child marriages (i) in each of the past three financial years and (ii) since 1 April 2017; if not, in each case, why not; if so, what are the relevant details in each case? NW4026E

**Reply**

1. The Department is unable to respond to section (b) of the main question as there is no phenomenon such as female gender mutilation.
2. Forced marriages are not allowed and it’s the same as kidnapping, abduction therefore we have a court ruling on the Jezile matter.
3. Child marriages are within the purview of the department of Home Affairs and the question should be directed to that department.

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**Approved by the Minister on**

**Date……………………….**