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| **PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA****NATIONAL ASSEMBLY** |

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO: 424**

**DATE OF QUESTION: 26 FEBRUARY 2021**

**DATE OF SUBMISSION: 12 MARCH 2021**

**Mrs Y N Yako (EFF) to ask the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services:**

What total number of prisoners has he had to release prematurely during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to manage the numbers at correctional centres? Nw477E

**REPLY:**

Out of the 19 000 estimated Low Risk Sentenced offenders who have or will reach their minimum detention periods within a period of sixty (60) months from 27 April 2020, a total of 13 765 (**12 980** males and **785** females) have been placed in the system of Community Corrections to continue serving their sentences were released as at the 19 February 2021, in managing overcrowding and mitigating the spread of COVID-19 virus in Correctional Centres. Other offenders who were initially eligible for the dispensation were discovered to have further charges and as such they no longer qualify. This process is still continuing as some of those who qualify are required to attend rehabilitation programmes.

**END**