# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 542**

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**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 11)**

**Ms H Ismail (DA) to ask the Minister of Health:**

(1) Has any extensive research been commissioned by his department on fibroids; if not, why not; if so, what are all the relevant details;

(2) has any treatment been diagnosed to treat fibroids effectively; if not, why not; if so, what are all the relevant details;

(3) does his department have any awareness campaigns on fibroids; if not, why not; if so, what are all the relevant details?

###### NW729E

**REPLY:**

(1) No, fibroids are common but do not necessarily pose a health problem unless it is associated with any other underlying condition such as infertility or abnormal vaginal bleeding.

(2) Fibroids do not necessarily need treatment. Women are often diagnosed with fibroids when they are investigated for other gynaecological symptoms they are presenting with. The treatment is therefore symptomatic and will range from management of anaemia, surgical intervention to treat infertility and pain management with antibiotics to treat lower abdominal pains.

(3) No, because fibroids were not counted routinely as one of the leading causes of maternal morbidity and mortality. They are asymptomatic thus it’s not easy to identify and there is no routine screening and management protocol just for fibroids.

END.