



**MINISTRY
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER: 3245 (NW3718E)

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QUESTION:

Mr C J Poole (DA) to ask the Minister of Human Settlements:

- (1) In light of the statutory obligations to review geotechnical reports and structural solutions, and enforce compliance with technical standards by the National Home Builders Registration Council, what specific systemic and/or leadership failures contributed to the collapse of the building in George;
- (2) what accountability mechanisms, both managerial and regulatory, will be instituted to restore public trust and prevent such tragedies? NW3718E

REPLY:

1. **Legal Determination of Accountability**

While the independent investigation commissioned by the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC) acknowledges procedural lapses in the administration of the enrolment application, the question of causality—particularly whether systemic weaknesses or leadership failures contributed to the incident—rests with the courts. The judiciary is best placed to evaluate all relevant facts and submissions from implicated parties and to make an authoritative determination on accountability.

2. **Institutional Response and Corrective Measures**

Although the root cause of the building collapse is yet to be formally established, the NHBRC has already initiated a set of corrective interventions in response to the identified procedural deficiencies. These include:

- **Disciplinary Action:** Appropriate disciplinary processes have been initiated against the officials implicated in the lapses.
- **Capacity Building:** Enhanced training programmes have been rolled out for NHBRC personnel responsible for the registration of homebuilders, enrolment of projects, and compliance inspections.
- **Procedural Reforms:** Internal enrolment protocols have been amended to strengthen technical oversight and reduce the likelihood of future lapses.
- **Regulatory Strengthening:** New regulations are being promulgated under the Housing Consumers Protection Act, 2024 (Act No. 25 of 2024). These regulations will expand the NHBRC's regulatory authority, improve enforcement mechanisms, and introduce stricter penalties for non-compliance by home builders and developers.