



**MINISTRY
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER: 3787 (NW4323E)

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 20 JUNE 2025

QUESTION:

3787. Ms M Dlamini (EFF) to ask the Minister of Human Settlements:

What (a) urgent interventions has her department undertaken to address the growing backlog of blocked housing projects in provinces such as the (i) Free State and (ii) North West and (b) are the reasons that her department has failed to hold (i) contractors and (ii) implementing agents accountable for years of non-delivery despite repeated budget allocations? NW4323E

REPLY:

The Department of Human Settlements has prioritised the resolution of blocked housing projects to accelerate delivery and improve the efficiency of public spending. Urgent interventions have been initiated in the **Free State** and **North West** provinces.

(i) Free State

The Free State Province has identified **20,686 housing units** to be unblocked across **20 municipalities**.

The one-year intervention plan includes:

- a. Conducting **structural assessments** on affected units.

- b. Reviewing existing **contracts** to assess viability and legal implications.
- c. **Resuming construction** where feasible.
- d. **Monthly progress monitoring** to track implementation.

(ii) North West

The North West Province has **48 blocked projects**, with a potential yield of **5,551 housing units**, all included in the current approved Business Plan. The primary causes of blockages include:

- **Poor contractor performance** due to capacity or financial issues.
- **Procurement delays** and contract management weaknesses.
- **Inadequate local-level monitoring.**

The Department is working with the province to:

- ii. **Strengthen oversight and project management.**
- iii. **Escalate high-risk projects** for targeted intervention.

(b) Accountability of Contractors and Implementing Agents

The Department acknowledges that consequence management against underperforming contractors and implementing agents has been inconsistent across provinces. Measures to improve accountability include:

- ii. **Establishment of the Integrated Residential Development Programme (IRDP) Unit** to monitor delivery and support enforcement.
- iii. Encouraging provinces to invoke **contractual remedies**, including:
 - a. Termination of contracts for non-performance.
 - b. Blacklisting of non-performing contractors via the **National Treasury database**.
- iv. Collaboration with **law enforcement, the Special Investigating Unit (SIU), and the Auditor-General** to address fraud, maladministration, and mismanagement.
- v. **Reviewing procurement and planning processes** to ensure the appointment of capable and compliant contractors in future projects.

The Department remains committed to **restoring public confidence** in the housing programme through tighter controls, stronger intergovernmental coordination, and visible enforcement of consequences for non-delivery.