# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR ORAL REPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 206**

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**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 38)**

**Ms S P Kopane (DA) to ask the Minister of Health:**

Whether he intends to put the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health under administration as a result of the oncology crisis experienced recently in that province; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

###### NO3668E

**REPLY:**

No, I do not intend to place the KwaZulu Natal Department of Health under administration because I believe it is not necessary to do so.

There are other effective mechanisms that are being followed to deal with the matter. I believe that those mechanisms will even be more effective than under national administration, given our experience of Section 100 Administration in Limpopo which showed many shortcomings.

Anyway, the various mechanisms that are being followed are:

* I sent a team of seven (7) Deputy Directors-General led by the Director-General which outlined the nature of the problem;
* I met at least twelve (12) of the Oncologists who had resigned to understand what actually prompted them to leave and what solutions they propose;
* Armed with this information, I wrote a letter to the Premier of KwaZulu Natal wherein I put recommendations. In the letter I asked the Premier to convene a meeting, which subsequently took place on 18 August 2017 and attend by the following:

(i) Premier as Convenor;

(ii) Minister of Health as Presenter;

(iii) MEC for Health;

(iv) MEC for Finance;

(v) Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of KwaZulu Natal;

(vi) Dean of the Nelson Mandela School of Medicine in KwaZulu Natal University;

(vii) Five (5) Heads of Department of the Medical School.

At that meeting, all affected were happy about the solutions proposed.

* The MEC for Finance has appointed a Forensic Investigation about the Oncology issue and presented to the Premier. The recommendations have been taken to KwaZulu Natal Executive Council and there is a plan to implement. These recommendations point to the people who should be charged under various sections of the PFMA;
* Furthermore, the MEC for Finance has put up mechanisms to take over procurement from the Department of Health and the meeting welcomed this (Section 18 of the PFMA).

END.