

## WRITTEN REPLY

59/2024

Dr I Keeka (DA) to ask the MEC for Health:

Regarding: **KZN Mortuaries**

**1. How many unclaimed bodies are there in each mortuary in KZN;**

Of the five largest Medico-Legal Mortuaries, there is a combined total of one thousand one hundred and ninety-seven (1 197).

**2. For what duration is the longest that a body is in each of those mortuaries.**

The oldest human remains are from 2019 and majority of those are awaiting SAPS pauper statements.

**3. Has the Department concluded all of it's requirements for each of those bodies [such as PM's, collection of samples and other identifying criteria;**

Yes,

**4. If not, why not;**

Not Applicable


**5. With regards to these bodies, what are the general causes for the bodies remaining in the mortuaries;**

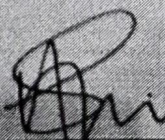
- Awaiting SAPS to finalise their processes namely tracing the next of kin, provision of DNA kits and when finalised the investigating officer will only then provide a pauper statement.
- Some Municipalities complain of inadequate budget for pauper burials and in some municipal areas there is lack of burial space.

**6. Where or what are the bottlenecks in getting these bodies buried or cremated?**

- Human remains can only be pauper buried, once pauper statements have been received from SAPS.
- A few municipalities do not have contracted funeral undertakers to perform pauper burials, this results in human remains not being buried. Lack of burial spaces is a common complaint and a few municipalities do not have allocated funding to pay for pauper burials.

Thank you,

  
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KwaZulu-Natal