

QUESTION	RESPONSE
	OTP and Provincial Treasury team that was involved in the forensic component. The goods and services costs are minimal and would need to be spliced out of the programme one budget manually.

678. Ms J Cowley to ask the MEC responsible for Health:

Noting that in Programme Three, fleet service's budget and Goods and Services budget have reportedly increased, but capital expenditure has declined by 11,7% due to payments to the Government Fleet Management Services (GFMS), further noting that this will impact negatively on fleet expansion and replacement and further noting that neonatal mortalities remain well above the benchmark of less than 12 in 100 000, highlighting systemic weaknesses in neonatal care:

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(1) How many operational ambulances are currently in use in the province, broken down per district;	<table><tr><th>DISTRICT</th><th>Ambulance</th><th>Grounded</th><th>TOTAL</th></tr><tr><td>Alfred Nzo</td><td>39</td><td>27</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>Amathole</td><td>62</td><td>11</td><td>51</td></tr><tr><td>Buffalo City</td><td>30</td><td>16</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>Chris Hani</td><td>49</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>Joe Gqabi</td><td>42</td><td>24</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>Nelson Mandela Bay</td><td>40</td><td>9</td><td>31</td></tr><tr><td>OR Tambo</td><td>54</td><td>20</td><td>34</td></tr><tr><td>Sarah Baartman</td><td>37</td><td>30</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>353</td><td>161</td><td>192</td></tr></table>	DISTRICT	Ambulance	Grounded	TOTAL	Alfred Nzo	39	27	12	Amathole	62	11	51	Buffalo City	30	16	14	Chris Hani	49	24	25	Joe Gqabi	42	24	18	Nelson Mandela Bay	40	9	31	OR Tambo	54	20	34	Sarah Baartman	37	30	7	Total	353	161	192
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(2) (a) how many operational ambulances does her Department currently have in use which are specifically modified to cater for neonatal emergencies and (b) where are they currently deployed;	(a) The Department does not have dedicated ambulances specifically modified for neonatal emergencies. All operational ambulances are designed and equipped to accommodate a special transport incubator for the transport of neonates and are therefore capable of providing neonatal transfer services. (b) As there are no dedicated neonatal ambulances, neonatal-capable ambulances are distributed across the																																								

	Province in accordance with the approved district fleet allocation. Consequently, all districts have access to ambulances that are equipped to facilitate the transport of neonates when required.
(3) how many of the specially modified ambulances have been deployed to hospitals/districts with high rates of medico-legal claims linked to neonatal adverse events and/or negligence; if none, why?	All operational ambulances are allocated to various hospitals and Community Health Centres (CHCs) across the Province in accordance with the district fleet allocation. As there are no dedicated or specially modified neonatal ambulances, no specific deployments have been made solely to hospitals or districts with high rates of medico-legal claims related to neonatal adverse events and/or negligence. Nevertheless, the existing fleet serves all health facilities, including those hospitals with a high litigation burden, thereby ensuring that neonatal transfer capability is available throughout the Province.

679. Ms J Cowley to ask the MEC responsible for Health:

Noting the reported retrenchment process at Aspen Pharmacare and the potential impact on workers, local manufacturing and the provincial economy:

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(1) What urgent steps has her Department undertaken with a view to engaging Aspen Pharmacare and preventing or mitigating the reported retrenchments;	The National Department of Health is the responsible party for the issues of concern raised by the Aspen leadership. Nonetheless, the head of Aspen has reached out to the provincial leadership and a proposal to revive the pharmaceutical sector has been shared with the Accounting Officer on the 3 July 2026. This will be escalated to the National Health Council Technical Committee and National Department of Health for further engagement.
(2) what assessments has her Department made of the likely economic impact of the reported Aspen job losses on Gqeberha, East London and the broader provincial pharmaceutical supply chain;	
(3) what direct engagements has her Department had with Aspen Pharmacare, Coega or other stakeholders regarding the reported job losses;	
(4) what coordination, if any, has her Department initiated with other provincial and national stakeholders to support affected workers;	
(5) what support is being provided to affected employees, including reskilling or redeployment;	
(6) what concrete commitments has her Department secured from Aspen Pharmacare regarding job retention, phased implementation or alternatives to retrenchment;	
(7) (a) on what verified basis does her Department rely on in stating that approximately 300 jobs may be affected and (b) whether her Department has received updated figures from Aspen or labour;	
(8) what role has her Department played in the establishment and implementation of the Pharmaceutical and Vaccine Zone project;	
(9) how will the reported investment and	