

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER 208

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 25 FEBRUARY 2005

DUE FOR SUBMISSION TO PARLIAMENT: 10 MARCH 2005

MR IO DAVIDSON TO ASK THE MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (1) (a) What is the US dollar value of the current gold and other foreign exchange reserves of South Africa, (b) in respect of what date is this information given and (c) what does this constitute in terms of import cover of total gross reserves;
- (2) whether the Government has a target in respect of gold and other foreign exchange reserves; if so, (a) what target and (b) what does this figure constitute by the figure in terms of import cover?

N304E

REPLY:

- (1) (a) Gross foreign assets of the country are US dollar 31,3 billion of which foreign reserves held by the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) are US dollar 15,1 billion.
- (b) 31 January 2005.
- (c) The figures for 31 January 2005 are not available. As at 30 September 2004 gross foreign assets of the country covered 23 week's worth of imports. Figures as at 31 December 2004 will be published in the South African Reserve Bank's Quarterly Bulletin on 23 March 2005.
- (2) No.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER 618

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 15 APRIL 2005

DUE FOR SUBMISSION TO PARLIAMENT: 29 APRIL 2005

MR E W TRENT (DA) TO ASK THE MINISTER OF FINANCE:

Whether he and/or the Government entered into any loan agreements with banks and/or other institutions in order to obtain the necessary funds to purchase military equipment in terms of the strategic defence procurement packages; if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, in terms of which sections of which Act or Acts were such agreements entered into? **N811E**

REPLY:

The questions by the Honourable Member are rather vague, as they do not refer to any specific period or fiscal year. However, between the fiscal years 2002/03 to 2005/06, no loan agreement was entered into for the purchase of military equipment. Loan agreements were only entered into during the 1999/00 fiscal year. These agreements were conducted in terms of section 16 of the erstwhile Exchequer Act, Act 66 of 1975, which has been replaced by the Public Finance and Management Act, Act 1 of 1999, as amended by Act 29 of 1999.