

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER 1869**

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**Mr S B Farrow (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:**

Whether he has considered any proposals of the Department of Transport regarding the undertaking of a nationwide quality audit of municipal road networks; if not, why not; if so, (a) how will the funds be sourced and (b) what are the further relevant details?

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**REPLY:**

No specific proposals have been received from the Department of Transport in this regard. Conducting an audit (or conditional assessment) on the municipal road network would be a valuable exercise which is implicitly supported by current legislation – such as the Government Immovable Asset Management Act (GIAMA) and the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA). An assessment would support both planning and budgeting for municipal roads to prioritise spending towards preventative maintenance. National Treasury, during the Roads Construction and Maintenance Summit hosted by the Department of Transport, agreed that municipalities must take responsibility for such an assessment as it is their mandate. However, it was also suggested that the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) would be best placed to support municipalities in this process as the entity has the necessary expertise and systems. Data collection for this process is not very expensive and can be done via a visual assessment done by semi-skilled labour in accordance with prescribed guidelines. Funds could thus be sourced through existing budgets, or be supplemented where necessary.