

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION NUMBER 639
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Mr J J Mc Gluwa (ID) to ask the Minister of Finance:

- (1) Whether the money that was provided to the Department of Home Affairs for the smart card project has been returned after the process was stopped by the State Information Technology Agency (SITA); if not, when will the money be returned; if so, (a) when and (b) how much has been returned;
- (2) what was the returned money used for by his department?

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REPLY

- (1) and (2)

An amount of R114 million allocated for the ID “Smart Card” project in 2008/09 was unspent. Of this amount, R4 million was shifted to offset overspending in other programmes and R110 million was rolled over in the 2009/10 Adjustments Appropriation for the “Who Am I Online” project.

An amount of R104.4 million was allocated for the Smart Card project in 2009/10. The Department of Home Affairs has indicated that this will not be spent, and has proposed that it be shifted to cover costs associated with enhancement of the Movement Control System, in preparation for hosting the 2010 Soccer World Cup, and to reimburse the Government Printing Works for higher than anticipated costs of printing passports.

The government will be initiating a smart card project that will cater for government-wide needs and will assist in rationalizing cost.