

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER 224

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Ms B C Blaai (Cope) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether National Treasury was able to eliminate the backlog in the processing of special pensions at 31 December 2010; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

NW219E

REPLY:

The administration had projected and committed on its organisational strategy that the backlog will be completed by end March 2011. As at end of March 2009/10 financial year, the total backlog was 6682 applications which consisted of 2872 appeal cases and 3810 applications that are still waiting for Political verification and research before they can be moved to adjudication.

The total backlog as at end January 2011 consists of 421 applications that are still waiting for Political verification and research before they can be moved to adjudication.

The administration has been experiencing a challenge on the balance of the backlog which is currently awaiting verification as most of the applications are incomplete. Efforts have been made to contact the applicants through telephone calls, written letters requesting outstanding information and Special Pensions officials were also deployed in the field to look for the applicants and outstanding documentation. Management has taken a decision to close all files with outstanding information and remove them from the backlog and classify them as dormant. Should an applicant resurface he/she will have write a letter to the Senior Manager: Special Pensions requesting the re-opening of his/her file. It should be noted that as part of the closing of files process, a final letter will be sent to the last address given by the applicant to notify them that their file is now closed due to failure to respond to numerous correspondence by the administration.