

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER: 1171 [NW1417E]

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1171. Mr MGP Lekota (Cope) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether any decision was taken by the Government to support the request he made in his Budget Speech on 27 February 2013 to strengthen the capacity of Parliament, the Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation and Administration in the Presidency, the Auditor-General, the Accountant-General and the National Treasury to ensure that Government (a) meets its financial targets and (b) achieves its intended developmental outcomes; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant (i) details and (ii) time frames?

REPLY

Parliament

Parliament has informed National Treasury that the process of restructuring the organizational structure was completed by the end of April. The report by the consultants is being processed. Once approved, Parliament will discuss with National Treasury their request for additional funding and the number of positions to be filled during the current budget process.

Performance Monitoring and Evaluation

On strengthening the capacity in the department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation, the department, in consultation with the National Treasury, has completed its review of the structure in its effort to see how best or efficient to allocate resources and to align the department's functions within the programmes with the strategic objectives. The department's budget allocation has since inception in 2010/11 increased significantly from R47.3 million to R193.4 million in 2013/14 and all critical posts have been funded. Overall, the structure of the DPME was fully funded, with personnel numbers having grown from 7 in 2010/11 to 202 in 2013/14.

National Treasury and the Accountant General

The National Treasury has begun to implement the strengthening of the OAG's office through increased recruitment and funding as follows:

Personnel increases in the OAG:

Headcount	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Filled posts	138	148	162	173

Budget increases in the OAG (focus Special Audit Services):

Exclusive of the DDG: Accountant General amounts, the expenditure for the OAG's office is expected to increase from R107.2 million in 2009/10 to an estimated R220.1 million in 2015/16.

The strengthening and enhancement initiatives have been across the OAG's office with a specific focus on the Special Audit Services (SAS) unit which was being supported with a total allocation of R125.8 million over the 2012 MTEF mainly in consultant spending to address governance aspects, which include measures to reduce corruption. This allocation increased slightly to R128.3 million over the 2013 MTEF. The R128.3 million allocation over the MTEF is made up of R41.9 million in 2013/14, R42.5 million in 2015/16 and R43.9 million in 2015/16.

In 2012/13, this sub-programme was allocated R38.7 million and topped up by a R10 million rollover. By the end of that year (2012/13), the SAS unit had spent R51.1 million. This increased spending is as a direct result of the capacitation and strengthening initiatives effected by the department which saw the SAS unit increase from 3 filled posts in 2009/10 to 15 filled posts in 2012/13.