

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION NUMBER: 318 [NW371E]
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318. Mr T D Harris (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

- (1) Whether the National Treasury will provide details of the measures that were instituted to limit spending; if not, why not;
- (2) whether the National Treasury will explain the reasons for the increased budget for the upcoming presidential inauguration; if not, why not?

NW371E

REPLY: (1) During the 2014 MTEC process, the National Treasury received a funding request from the Department of International Relations and Cooperation for the 2014 Presidential Inauguration. The recommended budget for the Presidential Inauguration was arrived at following an appraisal of the request and consideration of previous inauguration expenditure. The amount caters for all the logistical arrangements including the diplomatic and protocol services to be rendered by the department to attending heads of government or state during the inauguration of the President in 2014.

- (2) The increase in expenditure from the 2009 Presidential Inauguration provides for an increase in the number of foreign dignitaries, Heads of State and governments expected to attend the 2014 Presidential Inauguration, which also coincides with the commemorative programme of government to mark the 20 years of South Africa's democracy. Consequently, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), as the main custodian of diplomatic and protocol services will incur additional costs in terms of receiving incoming heads of government or state, VIP dignitaries and eminent persons. These costs specifically relate to accommodation, travel and subsistence arrangements.

DIRCO's budget for the Presidential Inauguration in 2009 catered for 20 Heads of State, whereas in 2014 provision has been made for approximately 40 Heads of State.