

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION NUMBER: 561 [NW644E]
DATE OF PUBLICATION: 18 JULY 2014

561. Dr M J Figg (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

- (1) With reference to the recent protracted strike at Lonmin's mines, what is the total (a) loss in revenue in terms of (i) Value-Added Tax (VAT) (ii) Pay As You Earn (PAYE) and (iii) company taxes to the Government and (b) cost of the specified strike to the South African economy;
- (2) did the recent strike at Lonmin's mines have an effect on the GDP; if so, by how much?

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REPLY:

- (1) (a) (i), (ii) and (iii) and (b). It is not possible to provide the information requested in respect of Lonmin. Chapter 6, more specifically, section 69 of the Tax Administration Act, 2011, provides for the confidentiality of taxpayer information held by SARS and prohibits the disclosure of taxpayer information by SARS except in narrowly defined cases. These cases include disclosures to the South African Police Service and National Prosecuting Authority related to tax offences, by order of a High Court or with the written consent of the taxpayer concerned.
- (2) It is clear that the strike in the platinum industry did have an effect on GDP given its contribution to the economy, and given that the economy contracted by 0.6 per cent in the first quarter according to official figures from Stats SA, and given that platinum is an important commodity earning export revenue for the country. Whilst there are various estimates already out in the public domain, I will refer to the latest estimate by the SA Reserve Bank as released in the statement of the Monetary Policy Committee on 17 July 2014, where it forecasts growth in 2014 at 1,7 per cent, compared to forecasts of 2,8 per cent at the beginning of the year. The actual impact of the strike at Lonmin mines cannot easily be isolated from the impact on the entire industry, and the Treasury does not provide estimates of the impact of each individual mining company on growth.