

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER: 251 [NW273E]**

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**251. Mr N F Shivambu (EFF) to ask the Minister of Finance:**

Whether he can provide a detailed account of the amount of more than R100 million that was brought from Nigeria into the country and confiscated at the Lanseria airport on 5 September 2014; if not, why not; if so, what (a) was the money meant for and (b) channels were used to bring the money into the country?

NW273E

**REPLY:**

South African Revenue Service (SARS) Customs acted in accordance with the Customs and Excise Act no. 91 of 1964, as amended. In terms of Section 15(1) (a) of the Customs and Excise Act no. 91 of 1964, any persons entering the Republic must unreservedly declare, at the time of entering, all goods in their possession that were acquired abroad.

The currency was therefore detained by SARS Customs for the purposes of establishing whether the currency is liable to forfeiture in terms of Section 88(1)(a) and in contravention of any other act contemplated under Section 113(8)(a) of the Customs Act. The foreign currency was counted and confirmed by SARS and then handed over to the South African Police Service (SAPS) for further investigation as it was not declared to Customs on import into the Republic of South Africa and was considered to have been dealt with irregularly.

- (a) The intended purpose of the foreign currency was unclear to SARS and was handed over to the SAPS for further investigation and finalisation.
- (b) The foreign currency was brought into the country as accompanied baggage.