

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION NUMBER: 485 [NW564E]
DATE OF PUBLICATION: 20 MARCH 2015**

485. Mr M G P Lekota (Cope) to ask the Minister of Finance:

- (1) Whether he is keeping abreast of developments at the SA Revenue Service (SARS); if so,
- (2) whether he is continuously ascertaining (a) what number of highly qualified and experienced SARS staff members resigned and (b) for what reasons in the period 1 March 2009 to 28 February 2015; if not, why not; if so, what were his (i) findings and (ii) interventions to keep the credibility of SARS intact and its image unsullied?

[NW564E]

Reply:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. I am informed on a continuous basis through a monthly report from SARS on the movement of all staff.
 - a. A total of 17 officials at Executive level at SARS resigned during the period 01 March 2009 to 28 February 2015.
 - b. These officials left SARS for various reasons including those of alternative opportunities in the private and public sector, personal reasons or due to the expiry of their employment contracts.
 - i. Refer to response in b
 - ii. I have recently appointed an advisory committee in terms of section 11 of the SARS Act, chaired by retired Judge Kroon. The primary task of the Advisory Committee will be to guide the direction of long-term strategy at SARS by ensuring that decisions about SARS operations, personnel, budget and technology support its long-term strategy and plans. In addition, the Committee will advise me on the following:
 - Proposed strategic and business plans, goals and measures relating to those plans;
 - Operational and organisational plans, including modernisation of technology systems, training, and reorganisation of business units,

- Budget to ensure that the budget supports the revenue and customs authority's strategic and business plans; and
- Review of current governance structures at SARS

The Committee will furthermore review the events that have been reported on by the media in recent months and advise me and the Commissioner about the best way to prevent such from reoccurring.