

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER 1824

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PROF B TUROK (ANC) TO ASK THE MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (1) (a) What is the extent of co-operation and co-ordination among the development agencies and commissions funded by the State or financially accountable to the State in respect of (i) policy and (ii) implementation and (b) where does the ultimate responsibility lie for their financial good governance;
- (2) whether the Auditor-General has any powers and functions in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? **N2483E**

REPLY:

- (1) (a) Governance oversight over the development agencies and commissions vests in Parliament, the Executive and the Boards of each respective institution. In this context co-operation and co-ordination takes place:
 - (i) At policy level through Parliament and the Executive (Cabinet) in consultation with the respective Executive Authority (Cabinet Minister) responsible for the institution; and
 - (ii) At implementation level through oversight by the Executive Authority's Department and the Board of the institution.
- (b) The ultimate responsibility for financial good governance vests with the Accounting Authority (Board or Controlling Body) of the institution as defined in Section 55 of the Public Finance Management Act. Regarding financial governance the roles of Parliament, the Executive Authority and the Auditor-General is to ensure financial oversight under which the Accounting Authority is held to account.

(2) The powers and functions of the Accountant-General are to ensure financial oversight regarding financial reporting by these institutions. These powers and functions were provided to the Auditor-General in terms of the Public Audit Act and, *inter alia*, include:

- The constitutional function that the Accountant-General must audit and report on the accounts, financial statements and financial management of any institution funded from the National or Provincial Revenue Fund; and
- The power to appoint or discharge auditors.

These functions are further fulfilled by the Auditor-General through the annual submission of a General Report of the Auditor-General on Audit Outcomes to Parliament.

Should any further clarification be required on the role and functions of the Auditor-General I wish to suggest that you approach the Office of the Auditor-General, directly.