

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

## QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

### QUESTION NUMBER 1277

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 19 AUGUST 2005**

**DUE TO PARLIAMENT: 8 SEPTEMBER 2005**

#### **MR C M LOWE (DA) TO ASK THE MINISTER OF FINANCE:**

- (1) Whether any posts within the National Treasury, which were vacant as at 1 January 2004, remained vacant because of a lack of suitably qualified or skilled applicants; if so, (a) how many posts, (b) what specified qualifications or skills are required to fill the posts and (c) for what period has each post been vacant;
- (2) whether any special steps have been taken to recruit suitably qualified or skilled applicants; if not, why not; if so, (a) what specified steps and (b) with what results;
- (3) whether the length of time for which each post has been vacant has had any negative effect on service delivery by the National Treasury; if not, what factors were taken into consideration in reaching this conclusion; if so, what negative effects have been experienced? **N1667E**

#### **REPLY:**

- (1) The National Treasury provides its vacancy statistics in its Annual Report at the end of each financial year. However, we cannot determine whether any vacancy is solely due to a lack of suitably qualified skills as attrition affects all spheres of employment. In most instances there is more than one factor that results in a vacancy, and it is not worthwhile researching this as our focus is on outputs rather than inputs. Skilled and professional staff are highly mobile, and the public sector has to compete with the private sector to attract and retain such skills. As an example, even the highest salary at the level of a Director-General may be too low to attract chartered accountants, as they tend to get more lucrative packages in the private sector.
- (2) Depending on the post, appropriate steps are taken by approaching recruitment agencies and building relationships with universities and professional institutions like SAICA to attract suitably qualified or skilled persons. It is difficult to measure such results, apart from noting the variance in numbers from year to year. I refer the member our past and current annual report for such information.
- (3) The vacancy rate has not adversely influenced the delivery of service by the National Treasury, as set out in the measurable targets and targets in the Estimates of Expenditure tabled with the budget. This is often because we tend to increase the workload of our current staff, who go the extra mile to ensure delivery on our service targets.

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER 1364**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 26 AUGUST 2005**

**DUE TO PARLIAMENT: 8 SEPTEMBER 2005**

**MR I O DAVIDSON (DA) TO ASK THE MINISTER OF FINANCE:**

Whether any function was organised to mark the occasion of the delivery of his budget vote in the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces in 2005; if so, (a) what total amount was spent on this function, (b) what amount was spent on (i) food and refreshments, (ii) venue, (iii) entertainment, (iv) staff and (v) transport and (c) how many people were invited to attend the function?

***N1794E***

**REPLY:**

No functions were organised for this purpose therefore no costs were incurred.