

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER 116

24 AUGUST 2005

MR D H M GIBSON (DA) TO ASK THE MINISTER OF FINANCE:

What government programmes will have to be reprioritised to provide the funds for the proposed loan to the Zimbabwean government? *N1652E*

REPLY:

None.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER 1383

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 26 AUGUST 2005

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

- (1) Whether the adoption of a single currency for the 14 Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries is the official policy of the Government; if so, when did the Cabinet and/or Parliament take such decision;
- (2) (a) what is the Government's mandate given to the Governor of the Reserve Bank in this regard, (b) what resources has the Reserve Bank dedicated to the pursuit of a single currency and (c) what is the annual cost thereof;
- (3) whether the Government agrees with the timetable for integration approved by the SADC Council of Ministers in respect of (a) the abolition of tariffs, (b) non-tariff barriers by 2008, (c) the SADC-wide customs union by 2010, (d) a common market by 2015 and (e) a single currency and central bank by 2016; if not, what is the Government's position in this regard;
- (4) whether the Government agrees with the macro-economic convergence targets agreed to by the SADC Council of Ministers in respect of (a) inflation, (b) interest rates, (c) budget deficits, (d) national debt and (e) exchange rates; if not, what is the Government's position in this regard;
- (5) whether Parliament will be briefed on the desirability and viability of a single currency; if not, why not; if so, when? **N1816E**

REPLY:

- (1) Government's official policy is to deepen economic integration among SADC Member States, as this will enhance SA's prospects for growth and development. However, there are no immediate plans to adopt a single currency. Furthermore, discussions on the desirability and viability of a single regional currency are ongoing between SADC Member States.
- (2) (a) None.
(b) None.
(c) None.

- (3) The timetable for integration is set out in SADC's Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan, which SADC Heads of State supported in March 2004. It sets out ambitious objectives in order to mobilise Member States to make progress towards economic integration.
- (4) The macro-economic convergence targets on inflation, budget deficits and current account deficits were broadly agreed to by the SADC Committee of Finance Ministers, following a technical exercise informed by expert meetings and research.
- (5) Yes, if requested by Parliament to do so, or as and when necessary.