

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY
QUESTION NUMBER 159
2 NOVEMBER 2005

DR S M VAN DYK (DA) TO ASK THE MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (1) Whether National Treasury will adhere to the budgeting requirements for land restitution and reform in respect of the 30% takeover of agricultural land by the Department of Land Affairs as budgeted for by that department; if not,
- (2) whether National Treasury will prescribe to the Department of Land Affairs as regards the rate and extent of land reform overtime; if so, what are the relevant details; if not,
- (3) whether the financial allocation to the Department of Land Affairs is not negotiable and will not be adjusted or reduced by the National Treasury; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes, National Treasury will adhere to the budgeting requirements for the land restitution and reform as appearing in the Estimates of National Expenditure.
- (2) The National Treasury does not prescribe the rate or extent of implementation of departmental programmes.
- (3) The financial allocation to the Department of Land Affairs adheres to the normal budgeting process of government, which involves extensive inter-departmental consultation to evaluate policy priorities and spending options. Final allocations to the Department are made by Cabinet following recommendations by the Ministers' Committee on the Budget. MTEF allocations are reviewed every year before being translated into appropriations by Parliament.
- (4) The system of Financial Management has improved significantly since the Honourable Van Dyk left the government service.