

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER 1654**

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**Mr N Singh (IFP) to ask the Minister of Finance:**

- (1) Why was the structure of a certain deal (details furnished) not approved by the Government;
- (2) whether the Government will act in shaping the digital environment and broader economy; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

NW2061E

**REPLY:**

- (1) The Honourable member is referring to the proposed MTN-Bharti transaction. National Treasury has released a statement in this regard on the 30 September 2009. We attach for the Honourable member's attention a copy of the National Treasury and MTN's statements in this regard. I want to reiterate that South Africa welcomes foreign investment into our country, and encourages South African companies to diversify offshore from a domestic base.
- (2) Yes. The Government is in the process of shaping the digital environment to improve the performance of the broader economy. Details in this regard are contained in the 2009 Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) tabled in Parliament on Tuesday, 27 October 2009. The 2009 MTBPS is also available on the National Treasury website.