

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER: 170**

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**Mr N J J van R Koornhof (Cope) to ask the Minister of Finance:**

Whether the Government Task Team to Effect Savings, which was announced in 2009, has met again; if not, why not; if so, when will a final report be made available?

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**REPLY:**

The Ministerial Task Team comprising Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan, the Minister responsible for Performance Monitoring and Evaluation, Collins Chabane and Minister of Public Service and Administration, Richard Baloyi will meet again in the next month to receive a report from officials who have been continuing the work started in the 2009/10 fiscal year. As a result, in its preliminary report, the task team was able to announce savings of R14.5 billion at national level over the 2010 medium term expenditure framework (MTEF) period. It was also announced that the comprehensive expenditure review process would take about 2 years to complete and that the terms of reference for the reviews were available. Officials from the various departments reporting to the above-mentioned Ministries were assigned to examine this and to report back to the Ministerial task team with their findings. Programmes and projects within departments and public entities associated with departments are in the process of being scrutinised with a view to closing down or rationalising ineffective programmes, projects and entities. On the other hand, those performing well may be expanded. Further meetings of the Ministerial task team will take place as progress reports emerge from the work being undertaken by officials in their respective departments. These reports will be discussed both by the Ministers Committee on the Budget and Cabinet. Further decisions and directives will be given to the Task Team.