

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER 2069**

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**Mr M H Steele (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:**

- (1) (a) What were the required (i) qualifications and (ii) experience for the advertised positions in the national Treasury for senior staff tasked with providing local government budget monitoring and analysis and (b) how many officials have subsequently been appointed;
- (2) (a) what is the current (i) scope and (ii) nature of their operations and (b) how are the priorities for their assignments chosen?

NW2468E

**REPLY:**

- (1) I presume the Honourable Member is referring to the advertisements for the post of Director: Local Government Budget Analysis as advertised on 11 April 2010. The following are requirements as stated in the advertisement:
  - (a) (i) Degree / National diploma in Economics / Public Finance / Accounting  
A postgraduate qualification will be an added advantage
  - (ii) A minimum of 10 years' relevant experience in local Government planning, finances, budgeting, the budget allocation system and requirements of the MFMA
  - (b) Of the six positions advertised, two have been filled and interviews have been concluded to fill the remaining four positions.
- (2) In terms of section 215 and 216 of the Constitution, and the Municipal Finance Management Act, National Treasury is responsible for:
  - Ensuring that the budgets and budget processes in all three spheres of government comply with the constitutional and legislative standards

- Enforcing compliance in all three spheres with generally recognised accounting practice, uniform expenditure classifications and uniform treasury norms and standards.

In this regard, National Treasury oversees the finances and financial management of the 17 largest municipalities. The provincial treasuries oversee the remaining municipalities, and National Treasury monitors and supports their work.

(a) (i) Scope for work Each Director:

Local Government Budget Analysis is responsible for exercising oversight of two or three of the 17 non-delegated municipalities, as well as working with provincial treasuries to monitor all the municipalities in one or two provinces.

(ii) Nature of operations

The following table sets out the standard key focus areas and outputs in the performance agreements of one of the Directors:

<b>Key Result Areas</b>	<b>Outputs</b>
Budget Preparation and support	Assessed 2010 MTREF tabled budgets for all non-delegated municipalities in WC and NC
	Compiled and distributed MTREF assessment reports for non-delegated municipalities in NC and WC
	Provided training /advise on budget regulations and formats (internal and external stakeholders)
Budget Implementation and Monitoring (include the budget reform process)	Improved quality of In-year (S71) reports for all municipalities in WC and NC
	Assessed mid year budget and financial performance for non-delegated municipalities in WC, NC
	Budget and financial data management
Intergovernmental co-ordination	Provided input for LG hearings and discussions at intergovernmental level
	Provided guidance on LG finance and budget related issues to intra and interdepartmental working groups, committees and forums
Cross-cutting	Advise Minister/DG and Cabinet on LG issues and processes
	Responded to all budget related queries received via the Paper Trail system and MFMA mailbox

(b) The priorities of the Local Government Budget Analysis unit, and therefore each of the Directors in the unit are driven by the following four factors:

- The progressive roll-out of the local government budget reform agenda – which currently is focussing on:
  - The implementation of the new Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations
  - The improvement on in-year financial reporting by municipalities in terms of section 71 of the MFMA
- Providing support to municipalities in the annual planning, budgeting, implementation and reporting cycle – including monitoring and assessing the municipalities' plans, budgets and reports at each stage of the cycle;
- Responding to issues/problems that arise within the municipalities for which they are responsible – which usually involves providing advice or support;
- Responding to information requests from the Minister, Cabinet and Parliament that relate to the municipalities for which they are responsible.