

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**  
**QUESTION NUMBER 297**  
**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 19 FEBRUARY 2010**

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

- (1) What criteria were used to select customs officials from the Oliver Tambo International Airport to attend the World Customs Organisation's training in Brussels in January 2010;
- (2) whether it was an open and transparent process; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

NW313E

**REPLY:**

- (1) No officers from the Oliver Tambo International Airport attended any training hosted by the World Customs Organization in Brussels in January 2010. The Chief Officer: Customs and Border Management (CBM) and the Group Executive: Customs Strategy and Policy were the only Customs and Border Management officials to visit the WCO in January to attend the second meeting of the WCO ad hoc group on Globally Networked Customs (GNC).
- (2) The process in selecting appropriate candidates for international training opportunities is transparent. Final recommendations emanate from a CBM Talent Board. Nominations that meet the specified requirements are sought on a national basis and are evaluated according to agreed criteria including work performance. All nominations for international travel are approved by the head of the relevant business division in SARS, the head of International Relations and the Commissioner before being submitted for final approval by the Minister of Finance.