

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY
QUESTION NUMBER: 356 [NW3670E]
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★356. Mr N J J van R Koornhof (Cope) to ask the Minister of Finance:

What steps he intends taking, in the light of the recent revelations that government departments are spending more than R4 billion on entertainment and related expenses, to contain such unnecessary spending by departments in the future?

NO3670E

REPLY:

Not all of the R4bn should be seen as wasteful expenditure. It is factually incorrect to represent all of this expenditure as wasteful. The National Treasury continues to monitor expenditure on an ongoing basis and where possible, ensure that spending is in line with good financial management principles. A large part of spending is on goods and services, which essentially is critical in ensuring that government services are extended to the people and also ensuring that government officials and Ministers perform their functions effectively and efficiently. We have also ascertain that a bigger portion of the R4 billion is attributed to the commuting between Cape Town and Pretoria where officials and Ministers are required to fulfil their Parliamentary obligations, including appearing before various committees. Various costs incurred, amongst others, include flight tickets, daily allowances, car hire etc. All of which are in terms of applicable rules and regulations in terms of financial management guidelines as per the PFMA. Despite all costs incurred, we continue to exercise oversight in spending and ensuring that this spending is in terms of the set financial management guidelines.

Every effort must continue to be made to cut unwarranted and unjustifiable expenditure.