

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**  
**QUESTION NUMBER PQ 127 (NW136E)**  
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**Mr N Singh (IFP) to ask the Minister of Finance:**

- (1) Whether he has been informed that old-age pensioners who (a) receive social welfare grants and (b) utilise banks to receive these grants are required to complete tax return forms because they receive interest payments, albeit small amounts, from the banks; if not, why not, in each case; if so, what are the relevant details, in each case
- (2) whether he intends eliminating the need for completion of tax returns by these bona fide recipients of social welfare; if not, why not; if so, what steps;
- (3) Whether he will make a statement on the matter?      NW136E

**Reply**

- (1) Yes, I have generally been made aware of complaints by pensioners about the fact that they are required to submit tax returns. A person's obligation to submit a tax return is, however, dependent on a number of factors such as whether the person's income exceeded the income tax threshold, the nature of the person's income and the investments of the person. These requirements are published annually in a Government Gazette that is issued by the Commissioner for SARS in terms of section 66 of the Income Tax Act
- (2) However, an old age pensioner whose only income is that of a social welfare pension from the state and a negligible amount of interest on the account into which the pension is paid, is not required to submit an income tax return.
- (3) No further statement will be made in this regard.