

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION NUMBER 1879 [NW2268E]
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Mr L Ramatlakane (Cope) to ask the Minister of Finance:

With reference to (a) his reply to question 668 on 30 July 2012 and (b) the reports by the Auditor-General on the state of finances in all spheres of government, what steps did he take to strengthen the regulatory environment?

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REPLY:

The Minister has put in a number of measures to strengthen the regulatory environment over the past 2 years. Notable are:

- Treasury Instruction Note 32 was issued in May 2011 to strengthen and improve accountability and provide supply chain management directives to accounting officers and accounting authorities;
- Treasury Instruction Note 34 aims to enhance compliance with section 38(1)(f) of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) which requires accounting officers to settle all contractual obligations and pay all money owing, including intergovernmental claims, within the prescribed or agreed period;
- The Office of the Accountant-General has put in place a support model where areas of weakness in financial management, internal audit and risk management are addressed by Strategic Support plans. The support plans are developed in conjunction with the prioritised departments and are monitored on a regular basis;
- Workshops on the key topics of the PFMA are hosted on a regular basis and are attended by officials employed in departments and entities;
- The Office of the Accountant-General continues to work with oversight structures and has hosted numerous workshops, in particular to APAC, over the last number of years. This aim is to strengthen their oversight responsibility.