

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER: 3188 [NW4028E]

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 9 NOVEMBER 2012

3188. Mr M G P Lekota (Cope) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether the National Treasury had established an *ad hoc* financial and legal control centre to regulate and authorise hotel, travel and consultancy expenses following on the national intervention in Limpopo; if not, why not; if so, (a) what amount was authorised for use on (i) travel and (ii) hotel expenses, (b) for how many officials, (c) for what period of time and (d) what amount was approved to hire consultants?

NW4028E

REPLY:

National Treasury utilises existing staff to monitor and authorize the expenses.

(a) (i) (ii) Ending 30 September 2012, National Treasury spent R1.163 797 million for the hotel, travel and subsistence allowance for officials assigned for the intervention. Each department involved in the intervention is responsible for the officials they deploy for the intervention and the costs thereof.

(b) From December 2011, seven (7) officials were working on the intervention.

- The Administrator - oversee the overall implementation of intervention
- Secretariat – coordination and reporting
- Budget Analyst – budgeting for provincial treasury,
- Chief Director seconded from KZN provincial treasury – to deal with cash management;
- Senior Manager – for Programme 1,
- Senior Manager – Accountant General's responsibilities
- Senior Economist – Forensic Investigations.

Only three (3) National Treasury officials remain in the province as a result of the intervention, the Administrator, the secretariat and the budget analyst responsible for Limpopo Province finances.

(c) Four (4) officials exited the intervention did so at different times, depending on the responsibilities and progress made on the tasks they responsible for.

- Programme 1 - Senior Manager exit date: 14 March 2012

- Seconded Chief Director - Cash Management exit date: 11 September 2012
- Accountant General responsibilities - Senior Manager exit date: 29 June 2012, currently with National Department of Public Works
- Forensic Investigation - Senior Economist exit date: 31 May 2012

(d) R11 million was approved and spent on consultants as follows:

- Specialists from an accounting firm were placed across all five (5) departments under section 100 to provide:
 - BAS clean-up
 - IFMS, Contract Verification and Supply Chain Management
 - Accruals and Payment of Suppliers
 - Cash Flow management
- Several specialists were appointed to handle Programme 1 functions for the Provincial Treasury after the withdrawal of the deployed Treasury official.