

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER: 772 [NW941E]**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 16 MARCH 2012**

**Mr T D Harris (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:**

- (1) Whether, with regard to the opinion article which he submitted together with the Australian Deputy Prime Minister in *Business Day* of 7 March 2012 (details furnished) he intends to implement the wage subsidy; if not, why not; if so, what (a) measures does he intend to take to implement the subsidy and (b) input does he intend to give on the draft labour legislation that is currently at NEDLAC;
- (2) whether he intends to propose any amendments to labour legislation to improve the flexibility of the labour market and create more employment opportunities; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether, in light of his references to sustainability and labour-market reforms, he intends to propose (a) the easing of restrictive hiring and firing in general and (b) that the right to strike for important categories of workers in the education and health care sector be limited; if not, what is the position in each case; if so, what are the relevant details in each case?

NW941E

**REPLY:**

- (1) (a) President Zuma responded to a similar question previously (PQ 606). The consultation process on strategies for stimulating employment is still ongoing. The discussion has been broadened to look at active labour market policies more broadly. It is my sincere wish that the discussion will come to a useful conclusion very soon.  
  
(b.) The Cabinet decisions made on the Basic Conditions of Employment Amendment Bill and the Labour Relations Amendment Bill on the 20. March 2012 represent the collective decision of Cabinet.
- (2.) No. Labour legislation is the responsibility of the Minister of Labour.
- (3.) (a.) These are important matters that business and labour must reach agreement on.  
  
(b.) No. These matters fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour and the Public Sector Bargaining Council.