

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY  
QUESTION NUMBER 1536 NW1883E  
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**1536. Mr D A Kganare (Cope) to ask the Minister of Finance:**

(1) (a) How many (i) people and (ii) companies were found to be involved in the smuggling of illegal cigarettes in the

(aa) 2010-11,

(bb) 2011-12 and

(cc) 2012-13 financial years and

(b) what was the total worth of the cigarettes;

(2) whether any of these perpetrators were criminally charged; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) (a) how many of these perpetrators were successfully prosecuted and

(b) what was the (i) lowest and (ii) highest sentence meted out?

**REPLY**

1. (a) (i)(ii) A total of 2481 cases of suspected smuggling or counterfeiting of cigarettes involving both individuals and companies were investigated by SARS during the 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 financial years. Of which the following were recorded in each financial year:

(aa) In 2010-11 financial year – **499** cases

(bb) In 2011-12 financial year – **1026** cases

(cc) In 2012-13 financial year – **956** cases

1. (b) A combined total worth of seized and detained cigarettes during the 3 financial years amounted to approximately R366 million. Of this the total worth of cigarettes seized during this period was approximately R287 million and the total worth of cigarettes detained was approximately R78 million.

2. Out of the total 2481 cases, a total number of 1840 criminal cases were handed over to the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) for prosecution.

3. (a) 1124 were successfully prosecuted
- (b) (i) The lowest sentence was a fine of R1500
- (ii) The highest sentence was a fine of R200 000 or 4 years imprisonment of which R100 000 or 2 years imprisonment was suspended for 5 years.