

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER: 254 [NW269E]

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 1 MARCH 2013

254. Adv A de W Alberts (FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Finance:†

Whether he is planning to take any steps to fight corruption from within the fiscus; if not, why not; if so, what steps are being considered?

NW269E

REPLY:

Combating corruption is a high priority. In the budget speech of 2013, I announced that the process of setting up the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer has begun with earnest. National Treasury has seconded one of its Deputy Directors-General to act as an interim Chief Procurement Officer (CPO).

The first task of the CPO is to implement four main streams of work:

- Taking remedial actions in areas of failure
- To take urgent steps to improve the current system
- To standardise the procurement of critical items across all government, and
- Develop and implement a long term modernisation strategy of the entire system.

When I tabled the 2013 Budget, I also indicated that this is not going to be an easy task and we will need all South Africans to work together to ensure that wastage, inefficiencies and corruption is eradicated from the system.

In line with this approach it is vital that more is done:

- a) by the business community to change the culture of extraction and abuse of the government procurement system which means that a few businesses gain at the expense of the taxpayers;
- b) among and by citizens to treat individuals who had ostentatious lifestyles as a result of the benefits of corrupt practices. The culture of corruption must be challenged and contested by all social actors. Only a combined effort by all South Africans can help to push back corruption.