

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION NUMBER: 1225 [NW1463E]
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1225. Ms D Carter (Cope) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether the Government has looked into the report by Jesse Colombo warning that most township households are now in one way or another connected to debt and are struggling to keep up with their repayments, a scenario which is then used as a political bargaining tool by trade unions to push for higher wages in an attempt to help the victims of debt while effectively further stifling the country's economy with ongoing strikes and subsequent shortcomings in productivity; if not, why not; if so, what measures is the Government taking to help township dwellers to understand the cost of debt and the implications it has both for them and the economy as a whole?

NW1463E

REPLY:

Yes, government has been taking steps to deal with the problem of household indebtedness as far back as October 2012, prior to the report by Jesse Colombo.

Cabinet has considered the problem of household over-indebtedness in December 2013 and directed the National Treasury (NT) and the Department of Trade and industry (the dti) to work together to assist over-indebted households and also prevent them from becoming over-indebted in future (refer to press release of 12 December 2013 on the treasury website).