

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION NUMBER: 222 [NW271E]
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222. Mr T D Harris (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether procedures to appoint a new Chairperson of the Financial and Fiscal Commission in terms of section 221 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, and section 5 of the Financial and Fiscal Commission Act, Act 99 of 1997, have been completed; if not, (a) why not, considering that section 5(3) of the latter specified Act requires that an appointment to any vacancy on the Commission must be made not later than 90 days from the date such vacancy occurs and (b) when will the procedures be completed?

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REPLY:

Currently the Chairperson of the Financial and Fiscal Commission is also its chief executive officer and accounting officer (section 19(1) of the Financial and Fiscal Commission Act, 1997 – “the Act”). This is an anomaly since the Commission should as executive authority oversee the performance of the chief executive officer and accounting officer. A draft Bill is being finalised to propose an amendment to the Act to shift the chief executive and accounting officer responsibilities of the Chairperson to a newly created administrative position of a chief executive officer. In view of the proposed amendment, the need for a full-time Chairperson is being considered as well as including specific provisions dealing with the appointment (full- or part-time) basis of all Commission members. The proposed amendments as approved by Cabinet for tabling in Parliament will indicate whether or not it would be prudent to fill the position of Chairperson only after the legislative process is concluded.