

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION NUMBER: 2323 [NW2906E]
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2323. Mr M Lekota (Cope) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether government (a) paid for any short term debts that were due for payment via new long term debt to meet the current obligation, (b) made sufficient provisions to meet the bunched-up debt payments that will be due in the next three years without seeking an extension of such debt and (c) put any measures and controls in place to ensure that the prevalence of futile and fruitless expenditure was brought to a complete and immediate halt during the period 1 January 2009 up to the latest specific date for which information is available; if not why not, in each case what are the relevant details in each case?

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REPLY:

- a) Yes
- b) Yes
- c) Measures and controls are in place to identify and respond to fruitless and wasteful expenditure. The Public Finance Management Act (1999) and its accompanying Treasury Regulations provide a framework for responding to such expenditure. The accounting officer of each department is responsible for the quality of all departmental spending. Fruitless and wasteful expenditure is reported in departmental annual financial statements and audited by the Auditor-General. Parliamentary Committees also consider the audited findings presented through departmental annual financial statements and consider in what context the actions or omissions of an accounting officer generated fruitless and wasteful expenditure. Parliamentary Committees then utilise this information when tabling their finding and recommendations in respect of individual departments.