

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION NUMBER: 33 [CW63E]
DATE OF PUBLICATION: 7 MARCH 2014**

33. Mr C J de Beer (ANC-NC) to ask the Minister of Finance:

- (1) (a) What progress has been made to eliminate weaknesses in our procurement system since 2012, (b) what measures have been developed and implemented to detect and prevent manipulation of the system by persons inside and outside government and (c) which incidents of corruption are on a downward trend;
- (2) Whether he will make a statement on the matter?

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REPLY:

- (1) (a) The Office of the Chief Procurement Officer was established in 2013.
(b) The Chief Procurement Office has been established and already has a number of projects underway that seek to:
 - inculcate a compliance culture;
 - build the capability (human and technological) of the system;
 - build a national supply chain management system for high value and common goods;
 - modernise the products that government use; and
 - simplify the over-complicated system.

While the main focus remains on modernisation, it is envisaged that this would lead to improved service delivery and reduced leakages from the system.

All tender documents and processes are being standardised. A monitoring capability within the Chief Procurement Office is being established.

The process of developing a proper data management system is underway. It is difficult to monitor service delivery and corruption trends in the absence of such a system. However, a significant number of procurement irregularities and failures are now being reported to the CPO.

- (c) Many of these irregularities are not related to corruption, but mainly highlight the poor capability of our SCM system. This provides a good indicator for areas that need support and intervention.
- (2) Comments on progress and work that still needs to be done were made during the tabling of the 2014 Budget.

