

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY  
QUESTION NUMBER 1965 [NW2227E]  
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**Ms N I Tarabella Marchesi (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:**

With reference to the Minister of Social Development's reply to question 1019 on 30 April 2015, wherein she states that more than 10 million beneficiaries who had to open a bank account with Grindrod Bank have not been given their bank account numbers, what steps does he intend to take against the bank?

**REPLY:**

None, as the Minister of Finance does not ordinarily have legal authority to take action against any specific bank, or company. The Minister does have specific regulatory powers that apply to financial institutions or over certain financial transactions, but these are exercised by the regulators themselves. To the extent that there is regulatory non-compliance with any law by a financial institution, it is the relevant regulator (SA Reserve Bank, Financial Services Board, Financial Intelligence Centre, National Credit Regulator) that has the power to take appropriate action in terms of powers they enjoy in terms of current legislation like the Banks Act. No matters of regulatory non-compliance with regard to Grindrod Bank have been referred to the Minister of Finance.

As noted by my colleague the Honourable Minister of Social Development in her reply to question 1019, banking arrangements related to social grant beneficiaries are also governed by Chapter 4 (a) of the Regulations of the Social Assistance Act, 13 of 2004, and any non-compliance with this Act should be referred to the Minister of Social Development. To the extent that any bank does not deliver on a specific service contract it has with a government agency like SASSA, it is up to that agency to enforce the necessary contractual obligations they have with the relevant bank.