

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION NUMBER: 258 [CO662E]
DATE OF PUBLICATION: 20 OCTOBER 2015**

Mr F Essack (Mpumalanga: DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

- (a) What progress has the National Treasury made to investigate the irregular expenditure of R1.03 billion in Mpumalanga as reported by the Auditor-General and (b) what time frame was set to finalise the investigations?

CO662E

REPLY:

- (a) In terms of section 38(1) (b) of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), 1999 (Act No. 1 of 1999), the accounting officer of a department is responsible for the effective, efficient, economical and transparent use of the department's resources. Section 38(1) (c) (ii) of Act requires the accounting officer of the department to take effective and appropriate steps to prevent unauthorized, irregular and fruitless and wasteful expenditure. From the ongoing, it is clear that the responsibility to investigate the incurrence of irregular expenditure resides with the accounting officer of the relevant department. The National Treasury therefore does not investigate cases of irregular expenditure at departmental level.
- (b) The National Treasury has not conducted any investigation on the reported irregular expenditure of R1,03 Billion by Mpumalanga provincial government, which was reported by the Auditor-General. The AG's findings are largely conclusive. The onus is on relevant authorities:
- (c) To (i) act against those who caused government to incur irregular expenditure, and
(d) (ii) take steps to prevent the reoccurrence of the problems in future.