

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION NUMBER: 388 [CW479E]
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388. Mr G Michalakos (Free State: DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

- (1) Whether, in view of the recommendations by the previous Minister of Finance that criminal charges should be laid against senior officials in the Free State (details furnished), this was communicated to the Premier; if not, why not; if so, when;
- (2) whether the Premier has responded to this; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what was his response;
- (3) whether his department will take any actions in this regard; if not, why not; if so, (a) what actions and (b) what are the further relevant details;
- (4) (a) what was the cost of the investigation by certain attorneys (details furnished) and (b) what were their terms of reference?

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REPLY:

- 1) Yes, the recommendations were communicated to the Premier. In addition to letters that were sent to the Premier's office, the then Minister of Finance and Free State's Premier had a bilateral meeting to discuss, amongst other issues, misconduct related to the appointment of Letlaka Media CC. The meeting took place on 8 October 2012.
- 2) With the exception of the letter from the then Director-General, in which she refuted the findings of the investigation, the National Treasury did not receive a formal response with respect to the matter from the Premier.
- 3) Since there was no formal response from the province about the matter, the National Treasury is not aware of any action taken against the relevant officials. The then Director-General was subsequently appointed as Member of the Executive Council (MEC) of Finance on 11 March 2013, which made the investigations complicated.
- 4) (a) According to the National Treasury's records, the total amount spent on the investigation was R948 880. (b) The terms of reference included a technical investigation into the appointment of Letlaka and other service providers related to the tenders in respect of the public information platform, media bulk buying,

printing and distribution as well as events management; and a review of payments made to Letlaka and other matters in respect in of this entity.