

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER 395

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395. Ms D Carter (Cope) to ask the Minister of Finance:

- (1) Whether he instituted any investigation with regard to allegations (details furnished) that a certain political organisation (name furnished) exerted pressure on officials of the SA Revenue Service (SARS) to permit T-shirts to be imported into the country from China before the 2014 general elections;
- (2) whether any officials of the SARS who resisted such political pressure were (a) fired or (b) victimised;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the Government's position with regard to powerful elites that put themselves above the law in respect of the importation of goods?

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REPLY:

- (1) Due to the confidentiality provisions of South Africa's tax and customs law, no information may be disclosed concerning a specific taxpayer or trader's affairs. Be that as it may, the Minister has not instituted any form of investigation as the Commissioner for SARS is responsible for the administration of the tax and customs laws. SARS deals with import and export matters within the ambits of the law and in line with its prevailing internal policies and procedures.
- (2)(a)(b)
No SARS official has been fired or victimized in this regard.
- (3) There's no need to make a statement in this regard. SARS fulfils its mandate fairly and impartially and without any bias, fear or favour.