NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY QUESTION NUMBER: 1957 [NW2268E] DATE OF PUBLICATION: 16 SEPTEMBER 2016

1957. Ms H S Boshoff (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether the National Treasury has made any funding available to the Mpumalanga Road Asset Management System, through the Provincial Roads Maintenance grant, for the maintenance of the (a) D1749 and (b) R536 roads in Mpumalanga; if not, why not; if so, (i) when were the specified funds made available and (ii) what amount of funding was made available in each case?

NW2268E

REPLY:

Funding for road maintenance in provinces is allocated through the Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant (PRMG). This is a supplementary grant, which means that provinces are also expected to contribute to the costs of these activities from their own funds. The PRMG is allocated to provinces using a formula that takes into account the extent of the road network, traffic volumes, the visual condition indices as well as geo-climatic and topographical factors. These factors measure the relative need for maintenance spending in each province.

National Treasury and the National Department of Transport do not decide on the list of projects that provinces should fund through the PRMG and the provincial equitable share. The PRMG requires that provinces spend funds in terms of the road asset management systems (RAMS) and funds from the grant can be used to collect road condition data. It remains the responsibility of the provincial department receiving the allocation to use the provincial RAMS to prioritise roads for funding purposes. Mpumalanga has a roads infrastructure budget of R2 billion in 2016/17 of which R1.6 billion was allocated through the PRMG. About R801 million of the PRMG is earmarked for roads in the coal haulage network.

The province has budgeted for the upgrading of 9.2 kilometers of road **R536 to D4382** (near Justicia and Lilydale) for the period 01 March 2016 to 08 June 2018 as follows:

- 2016/17 R100 million
- 2017/18 R44.3 million
- 2018/19 R73.8 million

However, road D1749 has not been prioritised by Mpumalanga Province as it does not appear in the tabled project list for the 2016 MTEF.