

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION NUMBER: 1078 [NW1170E]
DATE OF PUBLICATION: 27 MARCH 2018**

1078. Mr N F Shivambu (EFF) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether he took any action on my letter addressed to him on Thursday, 27 March 2018, regarding the estimated amount of R20 million spent on the inauguration of the new Premier of the Free State, Ms Sisi Ntombela, and the farewell event for former Premier, Mr Ace Magashule, at the Free State Stadium; if not, why not; if so, what action has he taken?

NW1170E

Reply:

I refer the Honourable Member to my reply to his letter on this matter dated 26 April 2018. See letter attached as annexure A.

As indicated in my reply, the National Treasury shares the same sentiments that the expenditure was unnecessary especially considering the fiscal challenges faced by the province and its municipalities. Unfortunately, at the time I received your letter, all preparations had been made and it was not possible to stop the event. However, let me assure the Honourable Member that the matter is given the necessary attention. Once the Free State Provincial Treasury concludes its investigation on the matter as I have requested, I will be in a better position to address the matter appropriately and ensure that the province develops measures to prevent this practice in future.