

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION NUMBER: 666 [NW789E]
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666. Ms D Carter (Cope) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether the Government entered into any agreement to assist the government of the Kingdom of eSwatini financially; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details of the financial assistance?

NW789E

REPLY:

- (1) The Government of South Africa has not entered into an agreement to provide the government of the Kingdom of eSwatini with financial support.
- (2) Moreover, should such a formal request be received, it would need to be considered within the context of the challenging macroeconomic climate as outlined in the 2019/20 Budget Review, which highlights the following challenges:
 - 2.1 Subdued economic growth, forecast at 1.9 percent real GDP growth for 2019/20,
 - 2.2 An increasing budget deficit (forecast to increase from 4,2 percent in 2018/19 to 4.5 percent in 2019/20); and
 - 2.3 the resultant fiscal consolidation measures currently being undertaken by government (reduction of baselines by R50.3 billion) to ensure that public finances are returned to a sustainable path.