

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION NUMBER: 74 [CW122E]
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74. Ms C Visser (North West: DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether the (a) SA Reserve Bank and (b) SA Revenue Service have been victims of any cyber attacks in the (i) 2016/17, (ii) 2017/18 and/or (iii) 2018/19 financial years; if so, what are the relevant details?

CW122E

REPLY

Both the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) and South African Revenue Service (SARS) have informed the National Treasury that they have not been victims of any cyber-related attacks in the past three years that have been successful in wreaking significant damage to their systems or reputation. The security of the IT systems for both organisations a major priority, as they (like all organisations, businesses and ordinary persons) face stealthy, targeted, and financially motivated attack threats that seek to exploit vulnerabilities in their IT systems. Both institutions have in place defensive systems to protect themselves – needless to say, like all institutions, this is an area where they need to continually update and improve, as new threats arise.

- (a) The SARB has reported that from aside two SARB email accounts that were compromised in 2016/17 fiscal year, they have not had any successful attacks affecting their reputation and / or operation succeeded in 2017/18 and 2018/19 fiscal years. The two accounts that were compromised were used to launch a phishing campaign aimed at collecting logon credentials and credit card information but the SARB was able to take immediate steps to limit and manage the resulting risk, and to improve their remote email access security to be able to withstand similar attacks thereafter.
- (b) SARS has informed the National Treasury that they were able to successfully block cyber-related attacks during the periods 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19.