

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION NUMBER: 943 [NW1110E]

943. Mr G G Hill-Lewis (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

- (1) Whether he will furnish Mr G G Hill-Lewis with an updated and full status report on the matter of the Venda Pension Fund; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) (a) where is the matter in the court system and (b) what is the position of the National Treasury on the matter?

NW1110E

REPLY:

- 1) The Venda Pension Fund matter has been ongoing for a number of years. This matter has been investigated by various institutions such as the Public Protector of South Africa, joint task teams led by the Public Protector, state institutions led by the National Treasury that have included the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF); and the Government Pensions Administration Agency (GPAA). The National Treasury conducted the last investigation as per the remedial action from the Public Protector, specifically Report no. 18 of 2011-2012 and Special Report 15 of 2016-2017 respectively. I must also add that this matter has been processed through various courts in this country and has been dismissed.

The outcome of the National Treasury investigation is contained in a report submitted by the Minister of Finance to Parliament and to the Public Protector in keeping with the remedial action. The final state report was submitted to Parliament on 4th December 2018. In a nutshell, the National Treasury found that the remedial action proposed by the Public Protector is not implementable. The above-mentioned final report contains the detailed reasons for this conclusion.

The National Treasury has not received any formal reply from Parliament and the Office of the Public Protector. The National Treasury has also not been formally contacted on any next steps the Public Protector may take in this regard.

- 2) In an effort to bring the decades-long claim to finality, the National Treasury has approached the court to confirm that the National Treasury has complied with the remedial action of the Public Protector. Secondly, to request the court for a judicial review and setting aside of the relevant Public Protector reports, findings and remedial action.

Nevertheless, the National Treasury continues to assist stakeholders with obtaining any information at our disposal or which can be obtained within our ability.