



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY:

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“Mr M G P Lekota (Cope) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

Whether subsequent to the findings of the Auditor General for the 2013-14 financial year he has (a) ensured that financial management principles were being stringently applied in his department, (b) demanded that the Information and Communications Technology policies were fully in place and where necessary timeously updated, (c) instructed the Director-General to pursue disciplinary action against the Chief Financial Officer of South African Tourism for wantonly flouting supply chain management processes by not recusing himself in the adjudication of a tender won by a company where his ex-wife was an executive member and (d) ensured that the R97 000 fruitless expenditure which was incurred as a result of the late cancellation of travel arrangements in the 2012-13 financial year was recovered; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- a) Financial management principles are stringently applied in the National Department of Tourism. Subsequent to the findings of the Auditor-General, the NDT has developed an audit action plan to implement the recommendations of the findings raised and implementation thereof is monitored on a quarterly basis. Furthermore, the department's internal audit unit evaluates the control measures that management has put in place.

- (b) All Information Communication Technology policies were reviewed by the Auditor-General in the 2013/14 financial year. Shortcomings were identified in the security baseline documentation and the user account management procedures. Both documents were revised and approved in June 2014.

- (c) The Director-General of the National Department of Tourism cannot pursue disciplinary action against a person who is not an employee of his department. However, South African Tourism Board (SATB) as the accounting authority of South African Tourism, has the responsibility to take effective and appropriate disciplinary steps against employees of SA Tourism. Upon the resignation of the then Chief Financial Officer of SAT, the Board was precluded by operation of law from instituting disciplinary measures against the Chief Financial Officer.

- (d) Fruitless and wasteful expenditure is dealt with in accordance with the National Treasury guideline. Of the R97 000 fruitless expenditure which was incurred as a result of late cancellation of travel arrangements in the 2012/13 financial year, R61 000 was recovered. The remaining amount of R36 000 is under investigation.