



**MINISTRY FOR PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO.: 663

Mr M G P Lekota (Cope) to ask the Minister of Public Service and Administration:

Whether the undertaking by his department to improve transparency, responsibility and accountability in the public service through the implementation of the standardised delegation principles and templates has now been (a) implemented, (b) monitored and (c) analysed; if not, why not; if so, what progress is being made in significantly accentuating transparency, responsibility and accountability and thereby efficiently manage the risk of (i) corruption and (ii) futile expenditure?

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REPLY

(a) Implementation

- (1) To achieve the vision of the National Development Plan for building a capable and developmental state, the Cabinet, on 7 August 2013, approved the Principles of Public Administration and Financial Management Delegations, including Templates.

This framework clarifies that Executive Authorities be involved in appointments and human resources management (HRM) at the top administrative levels (for example, levels 15 and 16), while giving officials the authority to make decisions about whom to appoint at more junior levels.

2. Subsequently, the Minister for Public Service and Administration approved the Directive on Public Administration and Management Delegations on 4 August 2014 so as to establish norms and standards for public administration and management delegations.
3. This Directive was presented to provincial executive councils, workshops were also held with national and provincial departments. The Department of Public Service and Administration provides hands on support to departments and also populate the prescribed delegation registers.
4. The Delegation Registers are populated with the latest amendments to the Public Service Act and the Public Service Regulations. These populated Registers are also available on the website of the Department of Public Service and Administration.

(b)(c) Monitoring and Analysis

6. In order to progressively improve and assess the quality of delegations, departments are required in terms of the Directive issued by the Minister for Public Service and Administration to submit signed delegation registers as at 31 March 2015, by no later than 31 May 2015 to the Department of Public Service and Administration.
7. The Monitoring and Evaluation of delegations have been incorporated as a key performance area into the Management Performance Assessment Tool (MPAT) of the Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation. The 2015 MPAT moderation has been scheduled for the third (3rd) quarter (November 2015) to assess the implementation of the Directive. Following the aforementioned processes a report on compliance will be submitted to the Minister in the 4th fourth quarter.
8. In addition, the Directive also provides that departments implement processes to efficiently manage risks associated with delegated powers which include –
 - (a) Provision for Heads of Department to nominate a Delegation System Administrator who is responsible for managing the department's system of public administration and financial delegations. This Administrator will also maintain a separate Consolidated Register of Delegated Officials for both public and financial administration (these are lists of names of all employees holding delegations).
 - (b) The Internal Audit Unit to validate that the system of delegation is in place and report its findings to the Head of Department.

- (c) The Auditor-Committee to assess the effectiveness of the department's internal control systems and associated risks as it relates to delegations.
- (d) The Auditor-General to audit delegated decisions by delegated officials and determined if appropriate processes were followed including compliance to legislative and regulatory prescripts.
- (e) Legal Service Units of departments to validate the quality and legal soundness of public administration delegations and report its findings to the Head of Department and internal Audit.