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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 97

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Mr M J Cuthbert (DA) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

Whether his department conducts any checks on nongovernmental organisations, especially those acting as conduits, to monitor whether the persons applying are office bearers of other non-profit organisations that have received funding from the National Lotteries Commission and/or have acted as a conduit; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? [NW101E]

REPLY

The Lotteries Act (Section 26B) prescribes that applications for funding to the NLC be directed to the NLC and not the Department; and the statutory powers to consider applications are with the Distributing Agency. The Department does not have a statutory role in this regard.

When allegations of impropriety in respect of certain NLC arose, I requested amongst others the Department to take a number of steps within my power, to address these allegations. These included:

1. That an independent forensic investigation be initiated by the Department to evaluate the allegations and provide updates on the outcome to the Department.
2. That a charge be laid with the SAPS when evidence emerged through the independent forensic investigation of suspicious transactions.

3. That full support be given to the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) authorised by the President to investigate the affairs of the NLC.
4. That the Board be requested to publish the names of all the beneficiaries in their annual report, after the NLC had originally refused to do so. This provides names of NGOs who applied for funding.

The Interim Report by the SIU, tabled in Parliament, points to the work done by the SIU to trace the identities of beneficiaries and office-bearers of the NLC funded projects.

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