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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 894

Mr R T W Chance (DA) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

What is (a) the current status of the tender process to appoint a vendor for the development of the Certification Information Management System of the SA Bureau of Standards, (b) the total amount that has been spent on the development of the system from initiation to date and (c) is the reason and justification for the tender being for the development of a custom-designed system rather than to purchase an off-the-shelf system? NW1139E

REPLY:

I have been advised by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) as follows.

- a) The tender closed on 12 September 2024 and the evaluation of bids commenced on 18 September 2024.
- b) As the tender has just closed, no expenditure has been incurred as yet on the development of the system.
- c) The tender requirements are for an off-the-shelf system with customisation to meet the business requirements of the SABS, thus the system will not be tailor made for the SABS but will have to be customised (care is being taken not to overly customise the system), to ensure it is fit-for-purpose with SABS requirements. Additionally, to also include a component for the Local Content Verification tool, making it a comprehensive solution ideally suited for the SABS environment.

Although not expressly asked in the question, Parliament should note that the SABS previously embarked on a process to develop a Certification Information Management System (CIMS) for which an amount of R 3 499 372,72 was spent in 2022/23 financial year, despite an incomplete and unimplemented system. Investigations were conducted on the reasons for non-implementation and incurring of wasteful and fruitless expenditure. The preliminary outcome of the investigation led to consequence management action taken against the implicated officials.

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