**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 1307**

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**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER 22 – 2020**

**1307. Mr J J McGluwa (DA) to ask the Minister of Home Affairs**

(1) Whether, in view of his admission during a meeting of the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs on 9 June 2020 that he knew of Covid-19 from other countries, he will confirm that he was aware of the outbreak of Covid-19 since November 2019;

(2) what steps did he take to prevent (a) Chinese nationals from travelling to the Republic at that stage and (b) residents of Wuhan specifically from travelling to the Republic;

(3) whether his department put any measures in place in response to the Covid-19 pandemic when he became aware of the outbreak in November 2019? NW1675E

**REPLY:**

1. As far as I know, COVID-19 outbreak in China was announced to have started in November 2019 and not December 2019.
2. (a) Action against any outbreak any of a disease is guided by the IHR 2005 (International Health Regulations 2005) of the World Health Organisation (WHO). It is not done at the whim of a country. In following IHR 2005, the WHO only declared PHEIC (Public Health Emergency of International Concern) on the 30th January 2020.
3. I have already stated that there was no announcement of an ourtbreak of COVID-19 in December 2019.

**END**