****

**JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO: 1444**

**DATE OF QUESTION:05 MAY 2023**

**DATE OF SUBMISSION: 19 MAY 2023**

**Mrs Y.N Yako (EFF) to ask the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services:**

Whether he has been able to verify reports that Mr Thabo Bester was able to move in and out of the Mangaung Correctional Centre way before his escape from the specified facility to conduct his private businesses; if not, is he investigating the specified claims; if so, has he identified the individuals responsible for the breach of correctional services operational procedures? **NW1672E**

**REPLY**

The Minister of Justice and Correctional Services learned about these allegations through media reports and immediately instituted an investigation into the above matter through the National Commissioner of the Department of Correctional Services. The National Commissioner then appointed investigators who are currently busy with all allegations related to inmate Thabo Bester and his escape.

Arrests have been effected and certain individuals are undergoing court processes based on criminal charges in relation to inmate Bester.

**END**