****

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION 1484**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 26 May 2017**

**Mr H C C Krüger (DA) to ask the Minister of Economic Development:**

Whether (a) his department and (b) each entity reporting to him procured any services from and/or made any payments to (i) a certain company (name furnished) or (ii) any other public relations firms; if not, in each case, why not; if so, in each case, what (aa) services were procured, (bb) was the total cost, (cc) is the detailed breakdown of such costs, (dd) was the total amount paid, (ee) was the purpose of the payments and (ff) is the detailed breakdown of such payments? NW1626E

**REPLY**

1. Neither the Department nor any entity reporting to me have procured any services nor made any payments to Bell Pottinger as there is no good reason to do so.
2. One entity, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) used a public relations firm, Grounded Media, for a one-year period, at a contract price of R554 400. The IDC CEO has advised that the payments were for the following services:

* Developing and implementation of the Public Relations strategy;
* News writing;
* Management of media data base;
* Media training and;
* Reporting and analysis on IDC media coverage.

**-END-**