# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 1793**

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**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 17)**

**Ms M D Hlengwa (IFP) to ask the Minister of Health:**

(1) Whether, in light of a case opened for theft of items estimated at R200 000 at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, he will furnish Ms M D Hlengwa with reasons on how some fire doors were left unguarded when an amount of more than R3 million is being spent on security detail each month at the specified hospital; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether the relevant security company is being held liable for the theft; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) whether there is camera surveillance that can aid with the investigation, given that R450 000 is spent on electronic surveillance each month; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

###### NW2010E

**REPLY:**

(1)The Gauteng Health Department reported thatimmediately after the fire, the City of Johannesburg inspected the facility and found out that the hospital was not compliant in several aspects. The hospital has more than 1500 fire doors, which are at the back of the wards and lead to the fire escape routes. The hospital had to remove burglar doors next to the fire doors and this meant wards were left with no protection on access to the wards. This meant that the risk of criminals entering the wards was high in the wards using the back side of the wards without being detected. Plans are in place to review different options of securing the units without compromising fire regulations policies, including extending the CCTV installation to the fire escape routes.

(2)The hospital entered into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the security company. The SLA under schedule of penalties give guidance to parties on handling of violations to any terms contained in the agreement. It has been difficult to apportion the liability to the security company as all hospital staff had to vacate the building due to the uncertainty on the safety of the building, including security personnel.

During the temporary closure of the hospital, the Department of Infrastructure Development (DID) took advantage of the situation and invited contractors to do fire remedial work and some maintenance work in the wards. This meant that the hospital had several contractors on site.

(3) Most of the hospital walkways are covered by camera surveillance except for the fire escape routes as per a response to question number 1. The fire escape routes did not have CCTV coverage, they had bugler proofs. As a result, it was not possible to review that footage in the areas where equipment was stolen.

 The monthly payment of R450 000 is for repairs and maintenance of CCTV equipment. The monitoring/surveillance of cameras is done by physical security.

CCTV’s have assisted before in identifying and investigation of criminal activities within the hospital. Where criminals are identified the hospital submitted footage to SAPS and had successful prosecutions before. It is for this reason, that the hospital is now exploring the latest technology to have surveillance in fire escape routes.

END.