**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

 **QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**1872. Mr R W T Chance (DA) to ask the Minister of Small Business Development:**

(1) Whether there were any delays in the process of appointing the new Chief Executive Officer of the Small Enterprise Development Agency in August 2016; if not, why did it take nearly 12 months to appoint a certain person (name and details furnished); if so, why was the specified process delayed;

(2) Whether the specified person was the best candidate for the specified position; if not, (a) why not; (b) who was the best candidate and (c) why was the specified person appointed to the specified position?”

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**REPLY**

(1) The process to finalise the appointment of the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda) was delayed by the consideration of change management and transition within and between the department and Seda. The department was of the view that the transition processes needed to be finalised before a new CEO was appointed. Moreover, the sudden departure of the Acting CEO back to the Department of Trade and Industry necessitated that the environment be stabilised within Seda before appointing a new CEO.

(2) Yes, Ms Mandisa Tshikwatamba was the best candidate for the position as per the recommendation of the selection panel which I fully supported and subsequently endorsed her appointment as the Chief Executive Officer of Seda.