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| **MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONSREPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**Private Bag X 745, Pretoria, 0001, Tel: +27 12 473 0164 Fax: +27 12 473 0585Tshedimosetso House,1035 Francis Baard Street, Tshedimosetso House, Pretoria, 1000 |

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION PAPER: 2 OF 2019**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO: 192**

**Ms V van Dyk (DA) to ask the Minister of Minister of Telecommunications, Postal Services and Communications:**

1. Whether she intends to merge the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) with the Universal Services and Access Agency of SA (USSASA); if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what are the relevant details, (b) on what ground(s) will the two entities with different mandates be merged and (c) how will the board members of each entity be accommodated after the merger;
2. whether she has found that the decision to merge the two entities is rational, given that six board members of the USSASA were removed following a damning report by the Public Protector and the continued challenges faced by the MDDA?

 **REPLY**

1. In line with the Presidential pronouncement that there will be a configuration of Government departments as well as entities to improve efficiency in the delivery of Government services, there has been engagements with various entities to look for synergies. This is still work in progress and currently there is no definite decision that has been made on the merger of USAASA and MDDA.
2. Once discussions are finalized and a decision is made, further details will be provided. However, it should be noted that the Board Members referred to were not removed following a damning report by the Public Protector, but instead the Board was dissolved due to a fundamental breakdown of their relationship with Minister.

**Ms. Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, MP**

**Minister**

**Date:**