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**Memorandum from the Parliamentary Office**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 201**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 08/02/2018**

**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 1 OF 2018)**

**Ms N V Mente (EFF) to ask the Minister of Higher Education and Training:**

Did the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences use the services of a certain company (name furnished) on 5 July 2017, to travel from 12 East Road Observatory in Johannesburg to Kievits Kroon in Pretoria; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what (i) was the cost of each trip and (ii) are the details of those transported, (b) was the service provided by the specified company the cheapest travel option taken, (c) did the spending comply with the cost cutting measures and regulations of (i) the National Treasury, (ii) her department and (iii) the Auditor-General of South Africa and (d) who approved the trip and payment?

**NW209E**

**REPLY:**

The National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) has provided the following responses to the questions posed.

The services of Exclusive Tours was used.

1. (i) The trip cost R1 500.

(ii) The Chief Executive Officer, Professor Sarah Mosoetsa, was transported.

1. It was the cheapest travel option.
2. (i) The expenditure complied with the NIHSS’s policies. The NIHSS is neither a Department, nor a constitutional institution, nor a public entity listed in Schedule 2 or 3, and therefore the Public Finance Management Act is not applicable to the NIHSS.

(ii) Spending is managed by the NIHSS in terms of its policies.

(iii) The Auditor-General of South Africa audits the NIHSS in terms ofSection 38 of the Higher Education Act and since its inception has received unqualified audit opinions.

1. The acting Chief Financial Officer approved the expenditure.

**COMPILER DETAILS**

NAME AND SURNAME: MS PEARL WHITTLE

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**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Minister signs Parliamentary Question 201.

MR GF QONDE

DIRECTOR–GENERAL: HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

DATE:

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION 201 IS APPROVED / NOT APPROVED / AMENDED.

COMMENT/S

PROF HB MKHIZE, MP

MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

DATE: