**PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO: 2375**

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**DATE OF REPLY:**

**Mr C MacKenzie (DA) to ask the Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services:**

1. (a) How many foreign mail items were (i) received by the Johannesburg International Mail Centre in (aa) February, (bb) March and (cc) April 2015 and (ii) stopped for processing by the SA Revenue Service (SARS) Customs Division in each of the specified months and (b) what was the time period to process these items in each specified month;
2. (a) how many foreign mail items were stopped for inspection by the SA Police Service (SAPS) in (i) February, (ii) March and (iii) April 2015, (b) what was the time period taken to inspect these items before release, (c) how many of these items in each specified month were found to be in contravention of any applicable laws and (d) how many arrests in each specified month have resulted from any seizures of foreign mail items in that particular month?

NW2739E

**REPLY:**

I have been advised by the South African Post Office (SAPO) as follows:

1(a)(i) (aa) February 2015 - 56 161

(bb) March 2015 - 59 138

(cc) April 2015 - 60 010

(ii) All items are subject to import duties and are processed by SAPO. South African Revenue Service (SARS) stops items for inspection in the event of any missing or required documentation or if items are deemed not to be allowed in the country.

 (b) The set standard for processing items is 48 hours. However this may differ depending on the volumes received and that have to be processed.

2. The South African Police Service (SAPS) work in conjunction with SARS to stop items for inspection in the event of any missing or required documentation or if items are deemed not to be allowed in the country.

The set standard for processing items is 48 hours. However this may differ depending on the volumes received and that have to be processed.

No arrests have been made by SAPS for this period.