**MINISTRY**

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION**

 **REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**QUESTION FOR written REPLY:**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (NA)**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: October 2020**

***DATE OF REPLY IN PARLIAMENT October 2020***

**2491. Mr M Hlengwa (IFP) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:**

In light of the fact that the Nigerian government is currently experiencing widespread protests against police brutality and its governance structures, what (a) is the Government’s position on the current situation in Nigeria and (b) agreements are in place between the South African and Nigerian governments that can allow for a sharing of experiences and assistance in police reform and better governance in Nigeria? **NW3099E**

**REPLY:**

(a) South Africa supports the statement issued by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat, on 21 October 2020, strongly condemning the violence that erupted on 20 October 2020 during protests in Lagos, Nigeria that has resulted in multiple deaths and injuries. The Chairperson reiterated the African Union's commitment to continue to accompany the government and people of Nigeria in support of a peaceful solution, and encouraged the Nigerian authorities to conduct an investigation to ensure the perpetrators of acts of violence are held to account

 South Africa stands ready to assist should such a request come through the competent authorities of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

(b) The Agreement between the Republic of South Africa and the Federal Republic of Nigeria in respect of Police Cooperation was signed on 14 March 2001 during the 3rd Session of the Bi-National Commission between South Africa and Nigeria. The Agreement came into force on 27 July 2005 and makes provision for the exchange of working experience, as well as training of personnel. Cooperation within the framework of the agreement is on the basis of a request received from the interested competent authority.