MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY: REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X1000, Pretoria, 0001, Union Buildings, Government Avenue, PRETORIA Tel: (012) 300 5200, Website: www.thepresidency.gov.za

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER: 2608

DATE OF PUBLICATIONS: 26 August 2022

2608. Ms T Bodlani (DA) to ask the Minister in the Presidency: Interdepartmental transferred to the Minister in the Presidency from Communications and Digital Technologies:

(1) Whether, with reference to a letter addressed to the board chairperson of the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA), in which the Office of the Auditor-General identified irregularities relating to the employment contract and employment conditions of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the MDDA, she will furnish Ms T Bodlani with a copy of the advertisement which called for the application for the position of CFO; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details; (2) what is the status on the filling of the vacancy of the CFO at the MDDA; (3) what plans does she have to (a) correct the alleged violations of (i) the Media Development and Diversity Agency Act, Act 14 of 2002, and (ii) the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, Act 75 of 1997, and (b) address the finding of irregular expenditure as a result of noncompliance with the specified legislation? NW3124E

REPLY

1. Furnish Ms T Bodlani with a copy of the advertisement which called for the application for the position of CFO

1.1 According to the attached documents, the position of the Chief Financial Officer was advertised in 2017 and no suitable candidate was secured.

1.2 In 2018 the Agency opted for a recruitment process utilising the supply chain route. The recruitment agency was appointed to assist the MDDA in this exercise. The same job advert used in 2017, also applied in this process.

1.3According to Clause 25.3.3 of the recruitment policy *"Advertisements can be supplemented by head hunting or by utilising reputable recruitment agencies."*

2. What is the status on the filling of the vacancy of the CFO at the MDDA?

The position of the CFO became vacant from 24 September 2022 following a resignation of Mr Yaseen Asmal. Management is in a process of filling the vacancy and the necessary approval to commence with the recruitment process was approved by the Acting CEO. It is anticipated that the position will be filled by 1st of January 2023.

3.a. Plans to correct the alleged violations of (i) the Media Development and Diversity Agency Act, Act 14 of 2002, and (ii) the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, Act 75 of 1997

i. The Information which has been circulating in the public domain regarding irregular appointment or breach of basic conditions of employment Act, 75 of 1997 is attributed to a leaked, confidential, draft Management letter. There is no such finding in our disposal and therefore the Agency is unable to comment/nor respond to the raised question.

The audit opinion received from the Auditor General ("AGSA") is attached hereto, which indicates that the AGSA has not made an adverse finding concerning the CFO's contract of employment.

3.b. Plans to correct the finding of irregular expenditure as a result of non-compliance with the specified legislation

Information which has been circulating in the public domain regarding irregular appointment or breach of basic conditions of employment Act , is attributed to a leaked, confidential, draft Management letter. There is no such finding in our disposal and therefore the Agency is unable to comment/nor respond to the raised question.

The audit opinion received from the Auditor General ("AGSA") is attached hereto, which indicates that the AGSA has not made an adverse finding concerning the CFO's contract of employment.

Thank You.