****

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER: 2623 [**NW2928E**]**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 01 September 2017**

**2623. Mr D J Maynier (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:**

(1) With reference to mandatory cost containment measures announced by the National Treasury, by what amount did expenditure on (a) consultants, (b) travel and subsistence, (c) catering and events, (d) entertainment, (e) advertising, (f) newspapers and advertising, (g) conference and (h) any other specified expenditure item(s) decrease in each department, constitutional institution and public entity listed in Schedules 2 and 3 of the Public Finance Management Act, Act 1 of 1999, as amended, in the 2016-17 financial year and since 1 April 2017;

(2) What is the total amount of expenditure in each of the specified categories in each of the specified financial years?

**REPLY:**

1. **Table 1** provides a summary of expenditure in relation to the amounts spent on (a) consultants, (b) travel and subsistence (c) catering (d) entertainment (e) advertising (f) newspapers and publications (g) conference and (h) other related expenditure in national and provincial departments. The table provides actual expenditure information for the 2016/2017 financial year. Expenditure information on (a) consultants, (b) travel and subsistence (c) catering (d) entertainment (e) advertising (f) newspapers and publications (g) conference and (h) other related expenditure is not available for constitutional institutions and public entities listed in Schedules 2 and 3 to the PFMA since these institutions utilise different entity controlled financial systems for their payments.

**TABLE 1: Expenditure on cost containment items for national and provincial departments**

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| **National Departments** |
| **Details of the Expenditure** | **Financial Year****2016/2017** | **April 2017** | **May 2017** | **June 2017** | **July 2017** | **August 2017** |
| 1. **Consultants**
 | 3,156,435,379 | 168,854,474 | 169,820,647 | 146,934,957 | 240,852,697 | 168,854,474 |
| 1. **Travel and Subsistence**
 | 5,433,207,746 | 432,647,504 | 418,954,473 | 411,563,298 | 285,308,255 | 432,647,504 |
| 1. **Catering and events**
 | 232,074,718 | 27,149,122 | 19,083,617 | 20,674,237 | 16,121,862 | 27,149,122 |
| 1. **Entertainment**
 | 22,101,931 | 2,485,695 | 1,794,973 | 1,158,531 | 851,830 | 2,485,695 |
| 1. **Advertising**
 | 456,223,831 | 29,518,299 | 23,484,631 | 18,920,782 | 23,824,709 | 29,518,299 |
| 1. **Newspapers and Publication**
 |  110,137,245.76  |  168,797.48  |  2,238,473.25  |  2,212,265.26  |  1,745,076.66  |  729,947.85  |
| 1. **Conferences (Venues and Facilities)**
 | 495,409,803 | 36,007,451 | 26,699,705 | 30,453,962 | 35,199,706 | 36,007,451 |
| 1. **Other Expenditure (Communication)**
 | 1,555,418,723 | 40,156,298 | 41,474,432 | 41,885,856 | 20,995,796 | 40,156,298 |
| **Provincial Departments** |
| **Details of the Expenditure** | **Finance Year****2016/2017** | **April 2017** | **May 2017** | **June 2017** | **July 2017** | **August 2017** |
| 1. **Consultants**
 | 2,968,695,683 | 271,305,138 | 258,451,744 | 289,585,774 | 597,236,132 | 271,305,138 |
| 1. **Travel and Subsistence**
 | 3,871,792,649 | 259,149,866 | 320,170,265 | 373,834,470 | 389,184,692 | 259,149,866 |
| 1. **Catering and events**
 | 582,440,746 | 58,571,120 | 44,280,687 | 41,653,405 | 46,083,537 | 58,571,120 |
| 1. **Entertainment**
 | 2,745,498 | 91,077 | 343,210 | 180,071 | 234,453 | 91,077 |
| 1. **Advertising**
 | 642,525,657 | 37,136,808 | 36,934,399 | 39,230,743 | 58,576,980 | 37,136,808 |
| 1. **Newspapers and Publication**
 | 91,924,930 | 6,260,349 | 6,473,537 | 2,061,449 | 8,774,020 | 6,260,349 |
| 1. **Conferences (Venues and Facilities)**
 | 515,726,359 | 24,785,400 | 30,389,112 | 39,640,401 | 43,176,986 | 24,785,400 |
| 1. **Other Expenditure (Communication)**
 | 1,672,898,423 | 32,125,863 | 33,295,187 | 30,729,025 | 31,221,940 | 32,125,863 |

1. The total expenditure in relation to (a) consultants, (b) travel and subsistence (c) catering (d) entertainment (e) advertising (f) newspapers and publications (g) conference and (h) other related expenditure for the 2016/2017 financial year amounts to R 11,5 billion for National Departments and R10,4 Billion Provincial Departments. Corresponding expenditure from 1 April 2017 to 31 August 2017 amounts to R3,6 Billion for National Departments and R4,2 Billion for Provincial Departments.