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| **MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONSREPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**Private Bag X 745, Pretoria, 0001, Tel: +27 12 473 0164 Fax: +27 12 473 0585Tshedimosetso House,1035 Francis Baard Street, Tshedimosetso House, Pretoria, 1000 |

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO: 27**

**Dr M Q Ndlozi (EFF) to ask the Minister of Communications:**

Whether (a) her department and/or (b) entities reporting to her awarded any contracts and/or tenders to certain companies (names and details furnished) from 1 January 2009 up to the latest specified date for which information is available; if so, in each case, (i) what service was provided, (ii) what was the (aa) value and (bb) length of the tender and/or contract, (iii) who approved the tender and/or contract and (iv) was the tender and/or contract in line with all National Treasury and departmental procurement guidelines? NW32E

**REPLY**

I have been advised by the Departments as follows:

**DOC and DTPS**

The departments have not awarded contracts and/or tenders to any of the listed companies.

**ENTITIES**

**FPB, MDDA, BBI, NEMISA, .zaDNA & Sentech**

These entities have not awarded contracts and/or tenders to any of the listed companies.

**BRAND SOUTH AFRICA**

Kindly note that Brand SA contracted Vox Telecommunications as indicated below:

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| **Name of the company** | **(i)Descriptions of services** | **(ii) aa. Value**  | **(ii) bb. Length** | **(iii)Who approved the tender/contract** | **(iv)Tender/ Contract in line with the National Treasury** |
| Vox Telecommunications (PTY) Ltd. | Internet and Voice over internet protocol (VoIP). | R23,657.12 per month inclusive of VAT | 36 months’ contract, extended for further one year | 36 months’ contract was signed by **Ms. Alice Puoane - Chief Financial Officer**One-year extension of contract was signed by **Dr. Jonty Tshipa – Director: Corporate Service** | No record available to confirm whether or not the contract was in line with all National Treasury and procurement guidelines |

**ICASA**

Kindly note that the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa contracted Vox Telecommunications as indicated below:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of the company** | **(i)Descriptions of services** | **(ii) aa. Value**  | **(ii) bb. Length** | **(iii)Who approved the tender/contract** | **(iv)Tender/ Contract in line with the National Treasury** |
| Vox Telecommunications | Provision of 20 Mbps Data Link 3 years from February 2015 | R1 002 941.69 | 3 years from February 2015 | 3 years from February 2015 | **Yes** |
| Vox Telecommunications | Audio and Video Equipment - Once-off 2016 | R542 969.69 | Once off 2016 ( May 2016) | Bid Adjudication Committee ( PFMA) requirement(BAC) | **Yes** |
| Vox Telecommunications | 20 Mbps Data Link Access for Nelspruit Office - 28 months until September 2018 | R7 870.33 | 28 month until September 2018 | BAC and CEO | **Yes** |
| Vox Telecommunications | ADSL & MPSL 5 years from April 2017 | R7 270 099.20 | 5 Years from April 2017 | BAC and CEO | **Yes** |
| Vox Telecommunications | Network configuration changes - Once off | R2 052.00 | Once off (September 2017) | SCM Manager and CFO | **Yes** |
| Total | **8 825 932.91** |  |  |  |  |

**SABC**

Kindly note that SABC contracted the companies as indicated below:

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| **Name of the company** | **(i)Descriptions of services** | **(ii) aa. Value**  | **(ii) bb. Length** | **(iii)Who approved the tender/contract** | **(iv)Tender/ Contract in line with the National Treasury** |
| Orion Telecom South Africa (Pty) Ltd(The supplier sent a notification of name change from Orion to Vox in May 2009. The company registration number as well as VAT number remained unchanged). | Telephone lines in the following Provincial Offices:KZN, Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, and Western Cape | R1,450,150.78 | 2009 to 2013 | Provincial and Technical Managers and Head of Legal | Contracts were approved in line with Delegation of Authority Framework (DAF) applicable at the time. |
| Vox Telecommunications (Vox) | Telephone lines in the following Provincial OfficesKZN, Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, and Western Cape | R2,180,047.15 | 2013 to 2018 | Provincial and Technical Managers and Head of Legal | The contracts were continuation of **subscriptions** of initial contract entered into with Orion. The approval of the contract was done in line with Delegation of Authority Framework (DAF) applicable at the time. Subscriptions**,** water and lights, TV Licence Pay points and others similar serviceswere part of exclusions as detailed in the Procurement Policy. |

**SAPO**

Kindly note that SAPO contracted the companies as indicated below:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of the company** | **(i)Descriptions of services** | **(ii) aa. Value**  | **(ii) bb. Length** | **(iii)Who approved the tender/contract** | **(iv)Tender/ Contract in line with the National Treasury** |
| AFRAIT Pty (Ltd) | Supply Trailers | R14 134 720.00 | 9and a half months | GCEO | **Yes** |

**USAASA**

Kindly note that the USAASA contracted Vox Telecommunications as indicated below:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of the company** | **(i)Descriptions of services** | **(ii) aa. Value**  | **(ii) bb. Length** | **(iii)Who approved the tender/contract** | **(iv)Tender/ Contract in line with the National Treasury** |
| Vox Telecommunications | Internet Connectivity equipment and Connectivity Services | R1 308 030.00 | 24 months | CEO, Mr Zami Nkosi | Yes |

**SITA**

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| **Name of the company** | **(i)Descriptions of services** | **(ii) aa. Value**  | **(ii) bb. Length** | **(iii)Who approved the tender/contract** | **(iv)Tender/ Contract in line with the National Treasury** |
| Vox Telecommunications | Annual maintenance of the email service for SA engineer formation | R1 773.68 | 1 year | Senior Manager  | Yes  |
| Vox Telecommunications | Annual maintenance of the email service for SA engineer formation | R1 519.9 | 1 year | Senior Manager  | Yes  |
| Vox Telecommunications | Annual maintenance of the email service for SA engineer formation | R1 463.05 | 1 year | Senior Manager | Yes  |
| Vox Telecommunications | Annual maintenance of the email service for SA engineer formation | R1 463.05 | 1 year | Senior Manager | Yes  |
| Vox Telecommunications | Digital Viewer Software Expert- SAPS Port Shepstone | R34 758.86 | Details cannot be found on the archives of the entity and employees responsible are no longer at SITA. | Provincial HoD  | Yes |
| Vox Telecommunications | Digital Viewer Software Expert- SAPS Port Shepstone | R34 758.86 | Details cannot be found on the archives of the entity and employees responsible are no longer at SITA. | Provincial HoD  | Yes |
| Vox Telecommunications | Digital Viewer Software Expert- SAPS Pietermaritzburg | R13 326.4 | Once off | Provincial HoD  | Yes |
| Vox Telecommunications | Telephone handsets for the DoE in KZN | R347 367.3 | Details cannot be found on the archives of the entity and employees responsible are no longer at SITA. | Provincial HoD  | Yes |
| Vox Telecommunications | Training for the server administration for right fax | R12500 | Details cannot be found on the archives of the entity and employees responsible are no longer at SITA. | HoD: Capital Management | Yes |

Over and above the transactions listed in the attached table, in 2014 SITA published to the open market RFB 1316/2014 for off-net voice services for the agency. After evaluation and approval the tender was awarded for 3 years to Vox for the total amount of R10 425 600.00. The tender was approved by the Bid Adjudication Committee as per the SITA Delegation of Authority. In terms of the tender requirements, bidders were required to provide two options on the solution required and to price them separately. After award, it was realised that the bid price for the solution awarded to Vox was actually for the other option.

SITA attempted to withdraw the award. The decision to withdraw was challenged by Vox as it was of the view that it is entitled to the tender. SITA launched a counter application to have its decision set aside in order to approach the market. The Court set aside the award to Vox as it was based on the incorrect evaluation results.

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**Ms. Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, MP**

**Minister**

**Date:**