**PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO: 3368**

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**QUESTION PAPER NO**: **39**

**DATE OF REPLY:**

**Ms N V Mente (EFF) to ask the Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services:**

Whether there are any plans for the country to launch its first satellite; if so, what are the relevant details in this regard?

NW3854E

**REPLY:**

As I have mentioned in my Budget Speech on 17 May 2018, SENTECH will conclude its business plan and funding model for a South African owned communication satellite by building on our national capabilities and partnerships. The aim will be to reduce our current leasing costs to government and develop our technical skills.

The Department has established a Working Group comprising relevant Government Departments and SOCs to develop a communication satellite strategy for a South African communication satellite.

**Approved/ not approved**

**Dr Siyabonga Cwele, MP**

**Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services**

**Date:**