###### National Assembly

###### Question Number: 3412

**3412. Mr M S F de Freitas (DA) to ask the Minister of Transport:**

With reference to the Prasa signalling systems and maintenance work thereof, (a) what are the details of the work that is still outstanding in the 2017-18 financial year in each province, (b) why have these maintenance projects not been completed, (c) what is being done to resume and complete the maintanance work in each area respectively, (d) what are the timelines and deadlines for each area in this regard, (e) what are the amounts already paid in respect of each project and (f) (i) what are the total outstanding amounts in respect of each project and (ii) when will the outstanding amounts be paid in each case? NW3804E

**REPLY:**

**Capital Expansion program for Resignalling**

(a)(b) (c) (d)(e)

In 2013, PRASA commenced with a 7 year rollout of the new modern signaling system to replace existing signaling interlocking, which consist mainly of obsolete mechanical and electro-mechanical systems, with electronic interlocking as the technology of the future. In the Gauteng region, Stages 1 and 2 have been integrated into one overall programme whose contract was awarded to Siemens at an investment totaling R3.8 billion (exclude inflation). In the Durban and Western Cape regions, the signalling contracts were awarded to Bombardier for R1.3 billion (exclude inflation) and Thales/Maziya for R1.8 billion (exclude inflation), respectively. The overall investment amounts to approximately R7 billion across the three regions.

The scope of work of the signaling programme across the three regions includes the construction of central control centres for trial monitoring and control. Further, the programme includes the installation of new interlocking systems to improve operational capacity, safety and flexibility.

The overall Gauteng signalling work is currently at 48.9 per cent completion against a planned target of 55.9 per cent. The lagging behind against the planned target is due to additional scope of works which include the implementation of the Automatic Train Protection system between Pienaarspoort and Pretoria station in line with the introduction of a new service. To date, 19 (of 92) stations (Midway, Lenz, Lawley, Stretford, Grasmere, Residensia, Irene, Olifantsfontein, Kaalfontein, Leralla, Tembisa, Randfontein, Robinson, Krugersdorp, Luipaardsvlei, Roodepoort, Boksburg East, Dunswart, Benoni) have already been commissioned

The Gauteng Nerve Centre (GNC) building is 100 per cent complete and already operational. The GNC currently operates Irene, Olifantsfontein, Kaalfontein, Leralla and Tembisa Corridor. The Southern line (Midway – Residensia) is next to being migrated to the GNC before the end of the current financial year. In total, eight Centralized Traffic Control Center’s (CTC’s) across Gauteng will be migrated to the GNC. The remaining mini control centres (Pretoria North, Germiston, George Goch, New Canada and Dunswart) will be migrated over a period ahead.

Project expenditure for Gauteng up to October 2017 amounts to R3 billion (including inflation adjustments).

The overall progress in Western Cape is at 68.3 percent completion, which includes design work, ordering of long lead items, pilot installations of signalling and communication, trenching and cable laying and installation of track side equipment for first two phases. The works currently underway and yet to be concluded include the construction of the Cape Metrorail Control Centre (CMCC) at Bellville and the installation of new interlocking systems at various rail lines. In addition, the works currently underway includes telecoms, power supply, OHTE and Perway adjustments across the different railway lines. Project expenditure up to October 2017 amounts to R842 million.

In KwaZulu Natal, the current works of the project includes the establishment of the Durban Central Traffic Control (CTC) at Rossborough and the installation of new interlocking systems from KwaMashu – Durban – Umlazi, Isipingo- Umbogwintini, Pinetown line and Crossmoor line. The overall Signalling work in Kwa-Zulu Natal is at 58.7 percent completion, consisting of detailed designs, track work installations, civil works, ordering of bulk material items and installation of first new point sets and signalling equipment. It is anticipated that the Pinetown line will be commissioned with a new signalling system by the fourth quarter of the current financial year. Project expenditure up to October 2017 amounts to R653 million.

**Rehabilitation Program**

The above renewal programme is a long term plan that will renew the system once all the projects are completed. In the interim, minor rehabilitation projects and maintenance of the existing system are taking place to ensure continuity of operations while the projects are being rolled out.

The Details of work covered during the 2017/18 financial year covers the following

* Replacement of vandalized and stolen signalling system which directly affects train services
* Constructive maintenance on worn-out signaling equipment affecting system reliability. Majority of this work is covered by a resignalling program discussed above
* Routine maintenance and minor corrective work covered under operational maintenance

The above interventions are aimed sustaining the reliability and safety of the current (old) signalling system; however there remains a backlog of maintenance and repairs. This outstanding work is caused by ongoing theft and vandalism of signalling equipment and lack of human capital to deal with obsolete equipment and constraints in the operational funding for maintenance.

These challenges are addressed through major renewal program discussed above and the capital intervention program (minor rehabilitation projects). The Gauteng signalling rehabilitation amounts to R32.5 mil, KwaZulu Natal amounts to R8mil and Western Cape amounts to R19.5mil. In total the signalling rehabilitation program amounts to R60 mil covering all three regions; the actual spending is R22mil with projects still in execution and planned to be completed by end of the financial year. The outstanding amount of R38mil will be fully utilized by end of the 2017/18 financial year with the completion of the various rehabilitation projects.