QUOTE

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

# QUESTION NO: 3710

Request for Replies to PQs from the National Assembly Internal Question Paper:

No 42 – 2017:

Ms S V Kalyan (DA) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

 (a)What steps is South Africa taking to facilitate the peaceful resolution of the political

 impasse in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and

 (b)what are the terms of reference for the political dialogue regarding the Democratic

 Republic of Congo that was facilitated by the former President of Namibia,

 Mr Hifikepunye Lucas Pohamba? NW4143E

**REPLY:**

(a)South Africa’s involvement and engagement in the Democratic Republic of Congo

 (DRC) is guided by the Southern African Development Community (SADC). In this

 regard, SADC has urged all the stakeholders to refrain from actions that would

 undermine the political and security stability in the country. On 15th October 2017

 HE President Jacob Zuma paid a working visit to the President of the DRC, HE

 Joseph Kabila, to emphasise the importance of ensuring the elections take place and

 securing peace and stability in the region.

 (b) HE President Jacob Zuma, in his capacity as Chair of SADC, after consultation with

 outgoing Chair of SADC, in line with the decision of the SADC Summit, appointed

 former President of Namibia, HE Mr Hifikepunye Lucas Pohamba as the

 special envoy to the DRC. The special envoy is expected to meet with the DRC

 National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) and the United Nations

 Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO)

 at which point he is due to receive an update on preparations for the General,

 Presidential, Parliamentary and Provincial Elections.

 UNQUOTE