

**MINISTRY FOR COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS**

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER 2019/391**

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**QUESTION: 391**

**391. Adv H C Schmidt (DA) to ask the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs:**

(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to question 2248 on 13 September 2018, he has been informed of a report submitted to the Emfuleni Local Council, reference O/MM/AA6/Finance/Reports 2018/FS 124-18, for irregular expenditure by the specified municipality for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, which indicates a payment of R43 334 546,27 made by the municipality to a certain law firm (name furnished) for representation of employees to the SA Local Government Bargaining Council held in Benoni;

(2) whether he and/or his department intends to recover any of the legal costs; if not, why not; if so, (a) why was the amount not included in the specified reply and (b) what steps has he taken or will he take to recover the irregular expenditure;

(3) whether he has been informed that the municipality paid the legal costs of the employees in instances where it was not liable to do so;

(4) whether the specified attorneys will continue to deliver legal services to the municipality; if not, what steps does he and his department intend to take to terminate the services of the attorneys; if so, why?NW415E

**Reply:**

The information requested by the Honourable Member is not readily available in the Department. However, the Department has engaged the Gauteng Provincial Department responsible for Local Government to obtain the relevant information from Emfuleni Local Municipality. The information will be submitted to the Honourable Member as soon as it is available.

Ends…