**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO: 511**

**DATE OF QUESTION: 25 FEBRAURY 2022**

**DATE OF SUBMISSION: 11 MARCH 2022**

**Mr W Horn (DA) to ask the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services:**

What is the reason that the contract for security services for the High Court in Mbombela, which came to an end on 24 January 2022, was not renewed and/or replaced before it terminated on the said date?

**NW576E**

**REPLY:** The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ&CD)awarded the contract of National Security Infrastructure (NSI) for security systems Repairs and Maintancein 104 courts and other precincts that has got electronic systems tothe successful bidder, namely, Morobisi Security and Technology in December 2020, for the period of 12 months. Submissions for procurement processes to be rolled out by the end-user engaging Supply Chain Management of the department in May 2021, six months prior to the expiry of the active contract. However, in addition to the procurement process there has been the need to review the draft specifications to consider the in-house capitation of Control Room operators. During the last three (3) months of the contract expiry, the service provider conducted in-house training to some employed departmental security personnel in various courts, to capacitate them in performing control room operations. The in-house security officers had since taken over the Control Room Operations where there is security systems. The unfortunate part is that Mbombela High Court does not have the employed capacity for Control Operators security personnel. As part of mitigating the risk, the DOJ Regional Office had since deployed private security officers to monitor the control room operations as an interim measure to manage the control room operations. The Director General in his capacity as the accounting officer approved the submission for the extension of the contract in December to the 24 January 2021, while the department requested further extension of three (3) months from the National Treasury. The DoJ&CD request submitted to the NT was not approved due to the fact that the contract already expired. The DoJ&CD had since advertised the tender for such services in December 2021, and the procurement process is at its final stages for an award.

It should be noted that besides the above explanation regarding security services, the department also engaged the then contracted service provider to conduct assessment on the functionality of security systems of Mbombela High Court while the contract was still active. It was discovered that two Network Video Recorders were faulty and becomes dysfunctional. The two NVR system were found to be irreparable due to unavailability of spare parts in the local market. To mitigate the risk, the procurement process to replace the faulty NVR and monitors has since been finalized in March 2022, in that the security system functionality has now improved, however, there are some of the cameras that needs to be maintained and repaired which will be attended to as soon the new service provider is appointed.

**END**