

MINISTRY HUMAN SETTLEMENTS REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER: 3493 (NW3997E)

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QUESTION:

Ms Z S Abader (MK) to ask the Minister of Human Settlements:

Given the allegations against the Chief Executive Officer of the National Housing Finance Corporation that include unauthorised international travel, procurement irregularities amounting to over R15 million, a failed R144 million upgrade of the information technology infrastructure and reports of workplace bullying and whistleblower targeting, what are the reasons that her department has not taken any action against the specified executive? NW3997E

REPLY:

Allegations against the Chief Executive Officer of the National Housing Finance Corporation (NHFC):

In line with principles of good governance, the Board of Directors bears the responsibility to direct the affairs of the entity, monitor executive performance, hold the Chief Executive Officer accountable, and take disciplinary or corrective action when necessary. This governance structure is central to the integrity and effective functioning of public entities such as the National Housing Finance Corporation (NHFC).

At present, the NHFC does not have a duly constituted board. The process of appointing a new board is currently at an advanced stage and is being finalised to restore governance stability and enable appropriate oversight. Once in place, the incoming board will be empowered to evaluate any outstanding matters, commission independent investigations where required, and take the necessary actions, including disciplinary measures, should they be deemed warranted.

In the interim, and in accordance with section 49(3) of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 1 of 1999), the Department has formally requested the National Treasury to appoint an Accounting Authority to fulfil the oversight function and maintain governance continuity. A response from National Treasury is awaited.