Honourable Mr R A P Trollip,

Please accept this e-mail as a preliminary response to your request for the resubmission of your oral question regarding the late former President Nelson Mandela’s funeral funds to the Premier in his previous capacity as the MEC for Finance in its original format for inclusion on the Question Paper to be addressed in the House on 23 July 2014. This oral question was originally formulated and sent to your office on Friday 20 July and a telephone call querying the question was received by Hansard on Friday 27 July which did not allow time for amendments due to the timescales required for response preparation by government Departments. An explanation for the formulation of the question which requested all the same information as the original draft and the removal of the word ‘personal’ was provided and permission was given for the question to go ahead on the Question Paper for Wednesday 2 July and a request for retraction and resubmission was not received at that time. The Legislature’s Hansard and Language Services Department has been advised that the Honourable Speaker will address the issue of this question in the House during the next Sitting.

Following consultation with, investigations by  and reports issued to the Honourable Speaker and the Chief Parliamentary Officer (CPO) for the Legislature, the following decision has been taken by Management regarding your resubmission request: The oral question cannot be included in its original format or otherwise on the next IQP containing oral questions. Please reference and take note of the information attached to this e-mail which includes written procedures as well as conventions passed on through training to those officials who edit, formulate and publish questions in accordance with Parliamentary practice and have been confirmed with both previous and current General Managers/Directors of Hansard  and Language Services)

The National Assembly Guide to Procedure was produced with the dedicated work over many years of Table Staff and other parliamentary officials who maintained a record of practices and procedures as they developed.

According to a strong convention of question procedures and guidelines applied by Hansard Services and Sections nationwide, an oral question on the same topic cannot be asked/addressed twice in the House in the same year. Procedures relating to what can and cannot be contained in an oral question in the House are also attached to this e-mail for your reference. If a Honourable Member is dissatisfied with the response received to an oral question, a request may be made to transfer the question to an Internal Question Paper containing questions for written reply so that a written response is received and follow-ups can be made by the Honourable Member to/with the relevant Office or Department.

Please forward all queries relating to the above matter to the General Manager (GM) for Hansard, the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Office (CPO) and the Office of the Honourable Speaker.

Many Thanks and Kind Regards,

Kerry Heron

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