

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY

FRIDAY, 04 MAY 2018

DEPUTY PRESIDENT

■1322. Mr D J Maynier (DA) (p 411) to ask the Deputy President:

(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to a supplementary question on oral question 3 on 20 March 2018, the Government intends to (a) amend the objectives of and/or (b) nationalise the SA Reserve Bank; if not, in each case, why not; if so, why, in each case;

(2) Whether he was briefed on the Moody's Investor Services' Ratings Action Report, dated 23 March 2018, before replying to oral questions in the National Assembly on 25 April 2018; if not, in each case, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY

(1) The nationalisation of central banks is not a unique phenomenon but one found in many international jurisdictions. In our case, the ANC as the governing party, resolved at its 54th National Conference that the Reserve Bank be nationalised. Needless to say, the implementation of this resolution will have implications on the ownership of the bank as well as its focus to be an instrument of development. The Reserve Bank, like other central banks, must place public interest and development at the centre of its existence.

(2) The report by the Moody's Investor Services was made public just as those of other ratings agencies. In this regard, the report is in the public domain for any member of society including Honourable Members to interact with the contents of the report. The Member confuses being under private control with independence. Not unless the implications is that central banks like those of United States or Japan are not independent. I am suggesting to the Member that there was no mention of nationalisation of the Reserve Bank by Moody's.