



arts and culture

Department:
Arts and Culture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

7/1/2/B

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 113

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“113. Mrs D van der Walt (DA) to ask the Minister of Arts and Culture:

- (1) (a) When will the new members of the Robben Island Museum Board be appointed and (b) what criteria will be used to appoint the new board members;
- (2) whether her department has taken any steps to ensure that the World Heritage status of the Robben Island Museum (RIM) is maintained; if not, why not; if so, what steps;
- (3) whether she will release the findings of the forensic audit into RIM that was completed in 2008; if not, why not; if so, when?”

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REPLY:

(1)(a) It is envisaged that the new Council will be appointed by the end of July 2009.

(1)(b) The criteria to appoint the Council will be the same as the normal criteria for the appointment of councils. These are:

- Criteria as specified by the Cultural Institutions Act, 1998 (Act No 119 of 1998)”
 - Council must consist of at least seven members
 - At least one member of the council must have financial expertise
- Other criteria:
 - Broad understanding of heritage
 - Broad managerial and financial expertise
 - Legal knowledge
 - Knowledge of marketing and liaison
 - Fund-raising
 - Education
 - Cultural/social research

(2) The general state of affairs at RIM is likely to be raised as a serious concern when the RIM Integrated Conservation Management Plan is discussed at the 33rd Session of the World Heritage Committee in Spain on 22-30 June 2009. I have therefore written formal correspondence to Minister Sonjica, to be forwarded to the World Heritage Centre prior to the 33rd Session, outlining the current challenges at RIM and the interventions to be undertaken. The purpose of this is to reassure the World Heritage Committee that the South African State Party is managing the situation and no intervention is required by the Committee. The DAC values the world heritage status of Robben Island. We will therefore always work towards maintaining this status within world heritage.

(3) No, I will not release the findings of the forensic report at this point. The report contains information that relates to on-going investigations and hearings. Releasing the findings at this point carries the risk of prejudicing the current proceedings.