

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION NO: 5135
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Ms T K Bodlani (DA) to ask the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies:

(1) Having indicated that the Postbank requires a capital injection as a requirement of its section 16 banking license application with the SA Reserve Bank, what total amount does the Postbank require for its application;

(2) Whether the Postbank approached his department to seek additional funding for the specified application process; if not, where did the Postbank seek additional funding; if so, what are the relevant details? NW5743E

REPLY:

I have been informed as follows:

1) To acquire a full commercial banking license in compliance with the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) requirements, Postbank requires capitalisation for carrying out investments in further infrastructure and to meet the SARB's capital adequacy ratio threshold.

The required capitalisation amount is approximately R2.3-billion. As at 31 March 2025 (last audit), the Postbank is financially viable with a net asset value of R263-million, and a reported profit after tax of R110-million for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Postbank would not have required this capitalisation had it not been for a write-off of R4.2-billion of its exposure to the South African Post Office (SAPO) in the FY 24/25, following the execution of the SAPO Business Rescue settlement process.

2) Over the course of the past few years, Postbank has approached the Ministry and Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT), as the shareholder representative representing the Government of the Republic of South Africa, and National Treasury with its capitalisation requirements as follows:

- July 2023: Postbank approached National Treasury (through the DCDT) for a capital injection of R3.5-billion;
- December 2023: Postbank approached the DCDT for a capital injection of R4.9-billion;
- January 2024: Postbank approached National Treasury (through the DCDT) for a capital injection of R6.3-billion;
- July 2024: Postbank approached the DCDT for a capital injection (R4.2-billion); and,
- July 2025: Postbank approached National Treasury (via the Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies' representation on the Standing Committee on Appropriations) for a capital injection of R2.3-billion.