

QUOTE

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO: 399 (NO3812E)

**PUBLISHED IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 12-2012 OF 7 NOVEMBER
2012**

**MR LS NGONYAMA (COPE) TO ASK THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:**

- (1) Whether the African Renaissance and International Co-operation Fund (ARF) will be used to fund (a) Swaziland and (b) Zimbabwe to (i) undertake (aa) general and (bb) presidential elections and (ii) promote good governance and democracy in the receiving countries; if not, why not, in each case; if so, what are the relevant details in each case;
- (2) Whether Cuba still receives any assistance from this fund; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what amount, (b) for what specified period and (c) for what purpose? NO3812E

REPLY:

- (1) The African Renaissance and International Co-operation Fund approved an amount of R5 million to fund South Africa's participation in the AU/SADC Election Observer Missions for the 2012/2013 financial year.

This is in line with Section 4 (b) of the African Renaissance and International Co-operation Fund Act, 2000 that states that "the money in the Fund must be utilised to enhance the promotion of democracy and good governance".

Notwithstanding the above, a formal invitation should firstly be extended by the country organising the elections, through its electoral authority, or the said government, in accordance with the democratic legal framework of the country, as necessary elements for undertaking an observer mission. In these circumstances, election observer missions to, for example Zimbabwe, could be funded from the ARF.

- (2) Yes. On 3 February 2012, the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Republic of Cuba signed an Agreement on Economic Assistance in Pretoria, South Africa. According to this Agreement,

the two countries agreed to contribute to the economic development of both Cuba and South Africa and to promote the economic relations between them in a mutually beneficial manner through the increase and diversification of bilateral trade exchanges.

The African Renaissance and International Co-operation Fund approved an amount of R100 million in August 2011 towards agricultural assistance to the Republic of Cuba. This assistance is a fulfilment of a promise that South Africa has made to assist Cuba recover from the devastating damage to its agricultural sector in the wake of the 2008 hurricanes, as well as contribute to the country's economic recovery.

The South African Government is currently working on modalities for the disbursement of the R100 million from the African Renaissance and International Co-operation Fund to fund the agricultural assistance to Cuba.

UNQUOTE