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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 416

Mr T Apleni (Eastern Cape: EFF) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

With reference to the pronouncements regarding the revitalisation project of rebuilding and reopening factories in Dimbaza in the Eastern Cape (details furnished), (a) when are the operational industries expected in Dimbaza and (b) what are the exact timelines in this regard? [CW473E]

REPLY:

The DTIC provides support at the request of provinces for the revitalisation of industrial parks.

Dimbaza Industrial Park is currently an underutilised industrial site, dilapidated and predominantly owned by ECDC, but with privately owned erfs scattered across the park. I am advised that there are 102 units, of which 23 are occupied, thus having an occupancy rate of 22.5% and the current businesses in the Park employ 1 039 people.

The Department has advised me that a phased approach to upgrading the Dimbaza Industrial Park is underway. The first phase of the project started in November 2018 and includes the following projects:

- The construction of an electrical high mast to improve visibility as part of security improvements
- Fencing, Gates and Turnstiles to enhance security in the park and ensure access control
- Waste skip
- Internal fencing
- Sewer Report to assess and manage storm water drainage and sewerage
- Security pods / guard house replacement
- Mini substation replacement to provide reliable power supply and ensure the substation is secured and prevented from vandalism whilst also providing protection to park tenants from possible electrocution as the hubs have been stripped of their covers and left open and a danger to the community and tenants.

The E Cape's plan is that the Dimbaza Industrial Park will be an integrated agro-industrial hub for innovation, product and process formulation in the food and allied industries, with a prominent eco-industrialisation identity.

In the discussions with the Department, it was agreed that a phased approach is required to ensure that objectives are achieved in line with the available budget.

The phases include the following:

1. Security infrastructure upgrade, fencing, lighting, critical top structures and electrical requirements - The first phase requirements were requested by the industrial parks management agencies who have been experiencing high crime levels.
2. Compliance with regulatory requirements – Landfill sites; Waste and Water treatment plants, Fire, Health & Safety Requirements, and Renewable energy initiatives.
3. Engineering designs and construction of new and existing roads, bulk water supply and sewage treatment plants or industrial effluent control.
4. Upgrading electricity infrastructure, and build new top structures in line with the expansion programme of the Parks.
5. Development of vacant land and sustainable industrial clusters in the Parks.

As a result of the state of national disaster, building projects were delayed but have since resumed and we have been informed that phase 1 has been completed save for the finalisation of the 'snag list' of issues.

It is the expectation of the E Cape province that occupancy rates will improve following completion of the various phases.

I have requested the Department to do a monthly check with the relevant entities in the E Cape on progress with subsequent phases.

I am advised that the total number of jobs created during construction is 161, with about 40% of the jobs allocated to young people drawn from local communities. R4 million worth of work was allocated to 11 sub-contracted SMMEs. The Provincial Department of Economic Development Environment Affairs and Tourism will fund Phase 2 of the project focussing on Road and Bulk Services Upgrades. The scope of the works is in a process to be finalised and the procurement process is projected to commence in August 2020.

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