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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 350

DATE PUBLISHED: 11 June 2021

Ms H.S Boshoff (Mpumalanga: DA) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

- (1) Whether any of the 109 000 trees at the construction site for the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone have been uprooted; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether any of such trees were protected trees; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so,
- (3) whether such trees have been (a) relocated and (b) transplanted; if not, why not; if so, (i) which area was identified and (ii) what are the further relevant details;
- (4) whether the knowledge of a horticulturist was sought; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (5) whether he and/or his department took into cognisance the importance of such indigenous trees to the Venda people; if not, why not; if so, what public participation was conducted with them;
- (6) whether a copy of the Minutes of such meetings will be made available; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? [CW478E]

REPLY

I advise that the Musina-Makhado SEZ is an initiative of the Limpopo government. As mentioned in my reply to NCOP question 247, the Musina Makhado Special Economic Zone Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is still under consideration by the

Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environment in compliance with the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) and its associated Regulations. In the circumstances, the DTIC has been advised that the SEZ has not yet been declared a construction site and the Department is thus not aware of any uprooting of trees. To assist the Member, the Department advises that all records of the EIA application including minutes of meetings and public participation are public documents and available for scrutiny. The Honourable Member is encouraged to contact the province directly for such and additional information and to ensure that any information she has on relevant environmental considerations are brought to the attention of the relevant authority that is evaluating the Environmental Impact Assessment.

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