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Department:  
Trade, Industry and Competition  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY**

#### **QUESTION NO. 554**

**DATE OF ORAL REPLY: 28 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**MP Mr C N Malematja (ANC) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:**

Given that the surge in food prices can be attributed to among other things the concentration in the food production value chain, and noting that some companies that have market power increase their prices far above the input costs they incur, what (a) is his department doing, through the Competition Commission, to prevent the abuse of market power by the specified companies and (b) total number of companies have been investigated and found to have inflated their prices in this regard? NO4003E

#### **REPLY:**

- (a) The Competition Commission has been monitoring food prices since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and taken steps to investigate possible price gouging behaviour. The Commission has been highlighting concerns with the rising prices of essential food prices since 2020 in the Essential Food Price Monitoring Reports.
- (b) Given the persistence of the price increases, the Commission decided to initiate complaints against fifteen (15) major retailers and manufacturers of certain essential foods. These investigations are still ongoing.

**-END-**