

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO. 225

Mrs Y N Yako (EFF) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

What is the Government's industrial strategy to create a new economy that will (a) stimulate manufacturing and (b) create sustainable jobs post Covid-19? NO1553E

REPLY

The Covid pandemic has imposed deep costs on our economy and society. We cannot go back to a pre-Covid economy. We must take the opportunity now to build the more inclusive, dynamic and jobs-rich economy that the vision of the Freedom Charter entails.

This work on the new economy is on-going and involves identifying new industrial and economic opportunities that can be utilized. Areas that are being considered include the following:

- 1. Essential goods production and local industrial value-chains, looking at new opportunities with production of medical supplies, including pharmaceuticals and medical equipment
- 2. Infrastructure-development, focussed on repairing social damage through construction and maintenance of health, housing, sanitation, water and roads infrastructure and at the same time identifying local input production: cement, bricks, steel, paints, equipment
- 3. Promoting Industrial dynamism: skills, innovation and productivity. In this period, agile companies will survive and prosper
- 4. Greening the economy,
- 5. Building on the Digital technologies and ways to open it to small businesses and township enterprises
- 6. African economic integration, including continental supply-chains and greater levels of industrialisation
- 7. Economic inclusion and transformation, through strengthening cooperatives, SMEs and township enterprises, with measures to mainstream women, youth and black South Africans in the economy

8. Building state capacity and enabling an entrepreneurial state to drive development, building on the examples of the state moving with speed, energy and partnership with our people.

Masterplans being developed by different Departments will provide greater detail on the measures to give effect to the post-Covid economy. As programmes are finalised and Government programmes and Budgets are aligned, more details will be made public.

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