



the dtic

Department:  
Trade, Industry and Competition  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

### QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

**QUESTION NO. 2887**

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**Mr M J Cuthbert (DA) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:**

- (1) What (a) total amount in Rand and cents, has been lost to the illicit trade in the (i) tobacco and (ii) alcohol industry from March 2020 until February 2022 and (b) measures have been put in place to curb the trade of illicit goods across all industries;
- (2) What (a) total amount in Rand and cents has been lost in the illicit trade in the clothing industry from March 2020 to date and (b) impact has the trade in illicit goods had on the Gauteng economy;
- (3) Whether his department is considering to conduct an awareness campaign around the illicit trade of goods and the impact it has on the economy; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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### REPLY:

- (1) (a) (i)&(ii) and (b)  
The monitoring and enforcement of illicit trade falls within the mandate of law enforcement agencies including the South African Revenue Services (SARS).
- (2) (a) **the dtic** does not collate such information and would recommend that this is referred to the SARS through the Minister of Finance.  
  
(b) Measures put in place to curb the trade of illicit goods across industries include:

- (i) Addressing illicit trade issues in Master Plans – where relevant, such as in the Clothing, Textiles, Footwear and Leather (CTFL) Master Plan which has a task team on illegal and illicit trade, and in the Steel and Metal Fabrication Master Plan which addresses illegal imports as one of its objectives.
  - (ii) Working with SARS, the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure (NATJOINTS) and the International Trade Administration Commission (ITAC) in an Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) to address illicit trade with a focus on CTFL, tobacco and cigarettes, steel and metals, and gold. It includes officials from **the dtic**. The Task Team, established in 2019, has focused on high visibility and high impact operations.
  - (iii) Publication of proposed regulatory measures to allow lawful metal collection, recycling, production and export and import but within the constraints of a regulated environment aimed at combatting illegal trade in stolen metal.
  - (iv) Advocacy work on illicit trade such as publication and promoting international cooperation on addressing illicit trade.
- (3) The answer is contained in the response to question (2)(b) above. This includes active advocacy work with firms, industry associations and trade unions.

**-END-**