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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO. 512

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

- (a) What lessons has he learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic in relation to the urgency of strengthening the local manufacturing of goods and (b) how will this influence the policy focus of his department in terms of promoting local beneficiation through boosting manufacturing in the Republic? [NO3130E]

REPLY

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the importance of building resilient, diversified and inclusive supply chains which require building local manufacturing capabilities. Diversifying manufacturing capabilities will help to ensure that South Africa is not hostage to supply-chain disruptions or the unavailability of manufacturing capabilities during a crisis.

The policy focus of the Department is now more strongly geared to promotion of local manufacturing to supply goods to the country and the continent. Deeper localisation can revive the manufacturing sector and it requires higher levels of investment, stronger partnerships between the public and private sector and improved industrial dynamism, as well as a concerted campaign to promote a 'buy local' campaign, particularly through Proudly South African.

In the past number of months, we stepped up local production of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other medical equipment to deal with the pandemic, rather than relying on imported products. The importance of fostering greater industrial innovation and combining it with industrial funding and targeted procurement policies, is clear.

In addition to this, the focus of Master Plans is on expanding local production. I have provided the Portfolio Committee with reports on the progress made in particular in sectors such as poultry, sugar value-chain, auto manufacturing and clothing/footwear manufacturing.

Beneficiation efforts have received a boost through industrial products under development or projects that have commenced construction or operation.

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