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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 165

Management/oversight of liquor-selling establishments

Ms A Matshobeni (Eastern Cape: EFF) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

Whether, with reference to the management and oversight of liquor-selling establishments and the reported rise in violent incidents involving youth at such premises, the National Liquor Authority (NLA) or the relevant provincial liquor boards have any data on the level of compliance by taverns with legal opening and closing times as set in their license conditions; if not, why not; if so, (a) how many licensed taverns were found to be trading outside of stipulated hours in the 2024/25 financial year, (b) what are the specific sanctions or penalties that were imposed on recurring offenders who operate late at night in contravention of their permits, (c) what measures his department is taking to ensure that the NLA and provincial authorities effectively monitor and enforce regulations on late-night operations, (d) how many compliance inspections were conducted, specifically during high-risk late-night hours after 22:00 in the past 12 months and (e) what formal coordination exists between his department and the SA Police Service to shut down establishments that persist in illegal late trading? CW242E

REPLY:

In terms of a 1999 judgment of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, the Court ruled that, in accordance with Schedule 5 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, liquor licensing is a provincial competence. The National Liquor Authority (NLA) is responsible for the regulation of the macro-manufacturing and distribution of liquor.



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Subsequently, the Liquor Act, 2003 (Act No. 59 of 2003) was enacted to regulate the macro-manufacturing and distribution of liquor. The Act empowers the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition to establish uniform national norms and standards on liquor policy and legislative matters. In this regard, the Department published the National Norms and Standards in February 2015, which set the minimum standards for trading hours.

The questions raised by the Honourable member fall within the jurisdiction of the provincial liquor boards, who are mandated to regulate retail sales of liquor.

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