



the dtic

Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 169

High youth unemployment rate

Mr K Ceza (Mpumalanga: EFF) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

What new (a) industrial establishments, (b) processing companies, (c) manufacturing and (d) coal-by product investments his department has put in place to create jobs, especially prioritising youth, women and persons with disabilities in Mpumalanga (details furnished)? CW228E

REPLY:

the dtic through its Incentives Branch (IB); the National Empowerment Fund (NEF); and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), provide industrial funding to businesses operating in South Africa.

Provided below is each institution's contribution.

Incentive Branch -

Since 2020/21 to date, the Incentives Branch funded 12 projects in Mpumalanga. The grant funding is approximately R200 000 and resulted in over R4 million investment.

- (a) Over that last five (5) Financial Years (FYs) [2020/21 to 2024/25], the Incentive Branch, within **the dtic**, funded two (2) new industrial establishments that comprise a new manufacturing plant producing medical and industrial gas as well as a redeveloped and rebranded retail mall. The former established created 28 new permanent jobs of which eight (8) are women and ten (10) are youth jobs. The latter,

received funding for critical infrastructure and reported the creation of over 1 200 construction jobs of which 90 are women and 201 are youth jobs.

- (b) During this period, no active and new processing projects are being funded by the Incentives Branch.
- (c) During this period, the Incentives Branch funded one (1) new manufacturing establishment and five (5) existing manufacturing plants. The new manufacturing plant created 28 new permanent jobs of which eight (8) are women and ten (10) are youth jobs.
- (d) The Incentives Branch has no coal by-product investments in Mpumalanga.

National Empowerment Fund (NEF) -

Across all sectors in Mpumalanga, the NEF has invested approximately R610 million, empowering supported businesses to create and maintain 2 113 jobs. 37.4% of these funds, have been directed towards businesses owned by women and youth. Over the past five years, R525 million has been invested in industrial activities, including industries, processing, and manufacturing, further driving economic growth and employment opportunities in the region.

- (a) The NEF supported several new industrial establishments in Mpumalanga to drive job creation, particularly for youth, women, and persons with disabilities. Over the past five years, the NEF has facilitated investments amounting to R342 million in the industrial sector. This investment has supported four businesses (of which one is 100% women-owned), retained 102 existing jobs, and resulted in the creation of an additional 1322 new jobs in industrial services, specifically in the construction, mining, and quarrying sectors.

One of these new industrial establishments is the NEF funded Busamed project that has a vital role in job creation, particularly for youth, women, and persons with disabilities in Mpumalanga. NEF funded the expansion of Busamed from a small operation into a nationally recognised private hospital group, including the establishment of the Busamed Lowveld Private Hospital in Nelspruit. This growth has directly led to the creation of employment opportunities for healthcare professionals, administrative staff, and support personnel, ensuring access to

quality jobs in the region. The hospital's focus on advanced surgical procedures and state-of-the-art medical technology has also fostered skills development, providing young professionals, including women, with training and career advancement opportunities in specialised fields such as radiology, ophthalmology, and high-care nursing. Additionally, the hospital's inclusive employment practices ensure that persons with disabilities have opportunities to contribute meaningfully within the healthcare sector. By facilitating Busamed's expansion, the NEF has strengthened Mpumalanga's healthcare infrastructure while driving inclusive economic growth and job creation.

- (b) The NEF's R78 million investment in processing businesses across Mpumalanga has sustained the livelihoods of 103 households and created 81 new jobs—advancing inclusive economic development in the province. These investments, spanning sectors such as plastic manufacturing, tyre recycling, have strengthened local value chains and supported industrial activity in Middelburg and Witbank.
- (c) Over the past five years, the NEF invested R55.9 million in the Mpumalanga manufacturing sector, supporting 129 existing jobs and creating an additional 48 new jobs. These funds were directed towards key under-serviced industries with high job potential, including furniture manufacturing, mineral production, battery production, and textile and clothing. This investment spans across 5 beneficiaries (of which two is women-owned) and is driving industrial growth and job creation in the region.
- (d) The NEF's investment in Uriah Resources (Pty) Ltd, a wholly black-owned mining services company, has significantly bolstered the coal production industry in Mpumalanga. This investment will not only support the expansion of coal production in the region but also create 120 new local jobs and preserve three existing positions, contributing to economic empowerment. Additionally, the project will stimulate infrastructure development, boost the local economy, and positively impact the GDP of Mpumalanga, fostering sustainable growth in the province and the City of Mbombela Local Municipality.

Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) –

(a),(b),(c)&(d)

Since the FY 2017/18 to date, the IDC has approved a total of R1,8 billion for the province of Mpumalanga. The funding supported a total of 49 businesses in the following sectors:

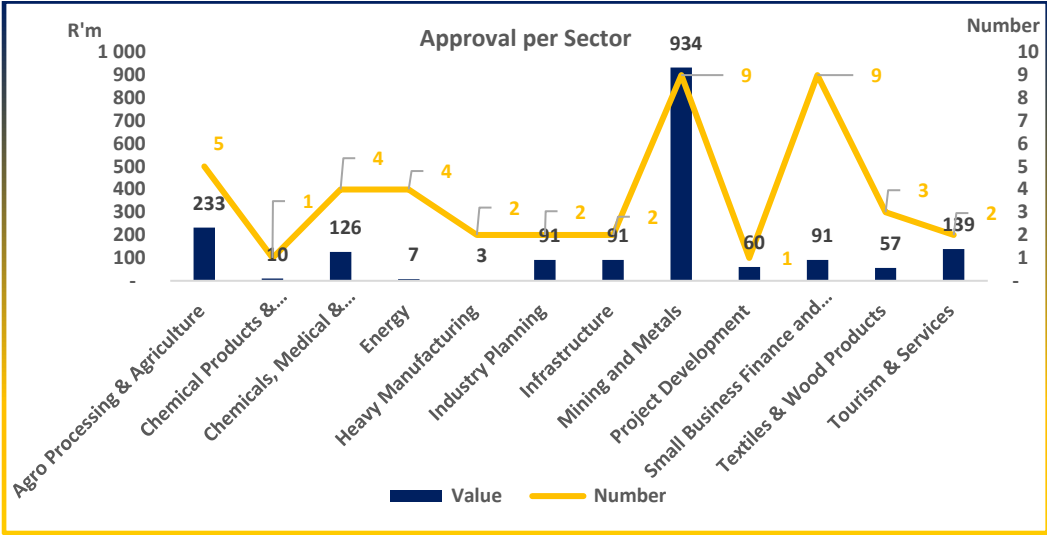


FIGURE 1: MPUMALANGA PROVINCE APPROVALS PER SECTOR FROM FY 2017/18 TO DATE

Of this investment, a total of R189 million went towards supporting women owned and women empowered businesses creating a total of 213 jobs. A further R189 million over the same period, was approved supporting youth owned and youth empowered businesses. This investment resulted in 253 jobs created.

In addition, through the Social Employment Fund (SEF), the IDC has created at least 4,000 jobs in Mpumalanga in each of the last two financial years, (FY 2023- FY 2024). At least 65% of these individuals are youth and 70% are women. The Social Employment Fund programme is aimed at tackling unemployment through strengthening partnerships with a wide range of social and civic partners, enabling them to create ‘whole of society’ initiatives for greater scale and impact across South Africa.

The IDC is managing the second iteration of the National Pathway Management Network (NPMN) Innovation Fund on behalf of the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL) and The Presidency. Through this programme, a further 125 jobs have been created with an initial investment of R6 million during FY 2024/25.