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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 240

Implementation of Laboratory Recovery Plan

Ms J M Adriaanse (North West: DA) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

Whether the SA Bureau of Standards has fully implemented its Laboratory Recovery Plan that is aimed at restoring operational capacity of its testing laboratories; if not, (a) which laboratories remain non-operational and (b) what are the reasons for the continued delays in restoring full functionality; if so, what are the relevant details?CW311E

REPLY:

I have been advised by the SA Bureau of Standards (SABS) as follows.

(a)&(b)

The Laboratory Recovery/Turnaround Plan is focused on strengthening three key areas: accreditation risks, equipment recapitalisation and human resource compliment & competencies. While significant progress has been made, the Laboratories are at different levels of operational maturity across their full testing scope.

All SABS laboratories remain operational and continue to maintain their accreditation in line with the requirements of ISO/SANS 17025 standard.



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While some of the equipment is ageing, it remains fully operational and continues to produce results that are within the prescribed testing parameters, ensuring the integrity of testing and decision-making.

In instances where specific testing parameters cannot be performed internally, SABS applies the provision of ISO/SANS 17025 sub-contracting/outsourcing testing services. This approach is currently utilised in areas such as plastic pipes and fire related products.

To address these constraints, SABS has embarked on a recapitalisation programme, focused on critical equipment replacement. External funding options are being explored in this regard.

In addition, there is ongoing training of personnel to strengthen technical competencies and mitigate any risks to accreditation.

The Laboratory Recovery/Turnaround Plan recovery/turnaround plan is in progress.

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