



**the dtic**

Department:  
Trade, Industry and Competition  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

### QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

#### QUESTION NO. 244

**Ms N P Mcinga (Eastern Cape: EFF) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:**

(a) What (i) strategies and/or (ii) policies has he implemented to promote industrialisation in the rural and township areas, particularly in the informal communities and (b) what are the details regarding any (i) ongoing and (ii) planned projects that are aimed at transforming such areas into economic hubs that could create jobs and reduce poverty?

CW298E

#### REPLY:

(a) (i) Against the background of **the dtic** seeking to effect implementation and coordination of catalytic projects with various municipalities and their communities, a study on mapping and scoping of township and rural communities for opportunities was commissioned in 2022/23 FY. The adopted strategy involves working with provinces to assist packaging and supporting qualifying projects for assistance through NEF, IDC and **the dtic** suite of financial incentives.

(ii) Working with DDM stakeholders across various regions, the industrial policy and the sector Master Plans' instruments assist in identifying applicable sectors and scope of potential value chain opportunities for different townships and rural communities. **the dtic** supports DSBD's mandate on intervention for informal businesses to be included in strategic value chains, especially through a Cluster Development framework that aggregates opportunities to scale.

(b) (i) **the dtic** has supported the revitalisation of an enterprise (SMMEs) hub in Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Free State using the Industrial Parks Revitalisation Programme (IPRP). The project is located in Thabong Township, which is one of the distressed mining towns of Welkom. Other ongoing supported infrastructure projects are located in townships and rural areas in the following regions: Seshego (Limpopo Province), Nkowankowa (LP), Mthatha (Eastern Cape), and Mandeni (KwaZulu-Natal). These industrial parks host thriving local micro and small enterprises, in the main. **the dtic** works with all provincial DFIs (IThala, FDC, NWDC, LEDA, NCEDA, GGDA, MEGA & ECDC) to coordinate support and assist in the growth of these enterprises.

(ii) Working with provinces, development agencies, districts and local municipalities - projects are being packaged in the following areas: Soweto, Vaal & Ekurhuleni (Gauteng Province); Mandeni or Isithebe, Ulundi, Umlazi & KwaMashu (KZN); Qqeberha & Zwelitsha (EC); and expansion of Nkowankowa footprint in Tzaneen. Proposals at hand focus on agro-processing, auto-repairs, textile, retail & logistics services, recycling, creative industry and digital spaces for business development.

**-END-**