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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 245

Reliance on private/international testing laboratories

Ms N S Du Plessis (Gauteng: DA) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

Whether any manufacturers and exporters have increasingly relied on private or international testing laboratories as a result of operational failures and loss of accreditation at certain laboratories of the SA Bureau of Standards (SABS); if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what assessment has been undertaken regarding economic impact of such a shift on revenue base of the SABS and (b) what steps are being taken to regain such a market share?CW316E

REPLY:

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

- (a) All the SABS laboratories have maintained their accreditation status. SABS does not have any verified or reliable information indicating that manufacturers and exporters that have had to rely on other testing laboratories due to the loss of accreditation.
- (b) Where SABS does not have adequate capability as per ISO/SANS 17025 and other testing requirements, SABS makes use of sub-contracting/outsourcing arrangements to ensure continuity of service.



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It is neither practical and economically feasible for the SABS to maintain the full spectrum of testing capabilities that always arise across all sectors and markets.

As part of a deliberate and managed operational approach, outsourcing data is used & analysed to identify; assess testing demands; and support insourcing capabilities, where appropriate.

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