



**the dtic**

Department:  
Trade, Industry and Competition  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

### QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

#### QUESTION NO. 359

**Ms H S Boshoff (Mpumalanga: DA) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:**

(a) Why has there been no significant public infrastructure investment in Markman since 1976 despite its growing economic contribution, (b) what specific actions have been taken by (i) the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality, (ii) his department and (iii) Coega Development Corporation to address infrastructure collapse in Markman, (c) why has the Government repeatedly failed to comply with the zoning scheme for Coega Special Economic Zone that was intended to (i) integrate and (ii) support Markman, (d) what are the reasons for the lack of response to multiple (i) submissions and (ii) petitions by the Markman Business Forum, including complaints regarding (aa) road conditions and (bb) manganese handling, (e) how is the Government justifying the lack of intervention while private sector businesses continue to invest in emergency infrastructure repairs and (f) what steps will be taken to ensure that government revenue which has been generated from Markman-related industries such as manganese export is reinvested in the area's infrastructure? CW416E

#### REPLY:

(a)&(b)(i)

The public infrastructure (i.e. roads, water and other services) is provisioned by the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality; and can therefore, be best answered by the Municipality.

(b) (ii) The Department is working with the Markman Business Forum and the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber, to explore possible collaboration with various government departments to address the collapse of industrial infrastructure at Markman.

(iii) According to the Coega Development Corporation (CDC), it does not have any jurisdiction / mandate to be involved in the development and/or management of the

Markman Industrial Park. The arrangement that the CDC has with the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality pertains only to the Nelson Mandela Bay Logistics Park (NMBLP) in Kariega (Uitenhage) and this arrangement does not extend to the Markman Industrial Park.

(c) (i)&(ii)

The Department has not received any formal complaints from the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality or the Eastern Cape Department: Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT), who are custodians of town planning and environmental authorisations, respectively; that CDC have failed to comply with the zoning scheme.

Information received by the CDC, indicates that at the time Coega was designated as a Special Economic Zone (SEZ), the Markman Industrial Park was not included as part of the Coega SEZ or within its boundaries (refer to **Annexure A**), because Markman was already established as an Industrial Park and was not meeting the aspired development standards of a SEZ; and the Environmental Requirements.

Furthermore, the Records of Decision / Environmental Authorisations that were issued to the CDC by the relevant Authorities for Rezoning the Core Development Area (CDA) of the Coega SEZ (27 May 2002); and the rest of the Coega SEZ (06 March 2007) did not pronounce on any integration of the Markman Industrial Park into the Coega SEZ and management thereof by the CDC. The Markman Industrial Park remained outside the Coega SEZ boundaries and therefore, is not a responsibility of the CDC (refer to **Annexures B, C & D**).

(d) (i),(ii)(aa)&(bb)

The Department notes there may be various submissions and petitions that were sent to the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, Coega and (DEDEAT), and it is proposed that the honourable Member directs these questions to the said-mentioned institutions.

From the Department's side, a letter was received from the Markman Business Forum on **05 August 2024**, pertaining to the following issues –

- Access to Neptune Road which provides public access to the Port of Ngqura.
- CDC non-compliance with the zoning scheme for the Coega SEZ.
- Extortionate demands being placed upon the Markman business community to make financial contributions for the maintenance costs of public roads.

- Requests for relief from the CDC's non-compliance with the conditions of the zoning scheme for the Coega SEZ and the NMBM's failure to comply with its Constitutional and legislative obligations.

The Department's SEZ Unit was requested to respond to the concerns raised in the communique. A physical meeting was setup with the Forum on 06 August 2024. The meeting resolution was twofold, -

- 1) That a meeting will be arranged with **the dtic's** Unit dealing with the revitalisation of Industrial parks, in order to investigate how this programme can assist with the improvement of road infrastructure in the industrial area; and
- 2) To facilitate discussions between the Municipality and Coega on the access to Neptune road. On the 03 October 2024, the Forum informed the Department that the Municipality postponed engagements and that they were escalating the matter to the Competition Commission (CC) - registered under case number 2024Oct0005.

(e)&(f)

These questions should be directed to the Municipality, as it falls within their ambit.

**-END-**