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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 420

Well-resourced/integrated support plan

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

Whether any well-resourced and integrated support plans have been drawn up for (a) small-, medium- and macro-enterprises and (b) small holder farmers to participate in the Special Economic Zone agro-processing value chain; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? CW577E

REPLY:

(a)&(b) In some of the SEZs, such as – Dube TradePort (KZN), Coega (EL), and Nkomazi (MP), etc., have sectoral zones for agro-processing; which bring together small-scale farmers from various farming areas - to ensure small-scale farmers are integrated in the commercial agro-processing value chain.

With regards to the Honourable Member's province of Mpumalanga, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDAT), confirmed that the Nkomazi SEZ Entity is initiating a pilot-project, which will bring together small-scale farmers along the four (4) tribal authorities; in a consolidated farm estate with various farming units. The proposed pilot – project is called the Rail-Agricultural Corridor and expands from the town of Komatipoort and the Kingdom of eSwatini.

Furthermore, to ensure well – resourced and integrated support plans for small-, medium- and macro-enterprises for SEZs, all agro-input suppliers are required to provide technical support of their products, as well provide up to date technology training and skills transfer sessions to farmers; and this has also been confirmed by DEDAT in Mpumalanga.

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