



the dtic

Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 439

Sufficient competitive firms

Ms M Kennedy (Limpopo: EFF) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

(a) What programmes are in place to ensure that South African firms become sufficiently competitive to expand their share of the world's goods and (b) what are the relevant details in this regard? CW499E

REPLY:

(a) & (b)

The Competition Commission is one of the agencies under **the dtic** mandated with improving competition in SA markets, which itself improves firm productivity and competitiveness in local and global markets, but also to improve the participation of domestic firms in the global economy.

Under this mandate, the Commission has recently made a number of key interventions:

- (i) The Commission and the Minister issued block exemptions for both energy users and transport logistics (rail and ports) users to cooperate in overcoming the challenges faced by firms in energy security and logistics constraints. These two constraints are underlying factors undermining the competitiveness of SA industry in export markets.

- (ii) The Commission and the Minister are currently considering a further block exemption for exporters to collaborate on gathering market intelligence and investing in joint infrastructure (e.g. warehousing and distribution at local and foreign ports) and joint shipping to improve competitiveness in export markets.
- (iii) The Online Intermediation Platforms Market Inquiry imposed remedial actions on Google Search and other global platforms (Apple and Booking.com) to improve the access, discoverability and visibility of SA digital platforms and apps on these global platforms. These remedial actions are aimed at improving the competitiveness of digital services locally and digital exports globally.
- (iv) The Commission's strategy for FY2026 includes an emphasis on removing barriers to entry and expansion in the catalytic sectors identified in the MTDP, aimed at improving competition and competitiveness in these sectors to facilitate catalytic growth. As part of that work programme, the Commission is looking at interventions to improve intra-regional and intra-continental trade to become more competitive in African markets and expand exports through AfCFTA. This includes unblocking barriers to market access in these markets.

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