

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 44

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

With reference to his department's responsibilities of fostering industrial development, supporting business growth and promoting economic transformation, (a) why is there a continued absence of policies to uplift impoverished communities and (b) why he has not implemented any policies to support the development of manufacturing industries in the informal settlement communities across the country? CW44E

REPLY:

- (a) The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition has numerous tools to assist in the development of businesses and to encourage economic change in the communities. Programmes such as the Industrial Parks Revitalisation Programme (IPRP), the Critical Infrastructure Programme (CIP) and Industrial Financial support by the NEF, IDC and the dtic Incentives branch, are a few of the programmes used to foster industrial development, supporting business growth and promoting economic transformation.
- (b) The IPRP is used by the dtic to collaborate with provinces/municipalities to address the upliftment of communities through enterprise or supplier development, investment attraction & retention, and skills development, amongst key areas. Through the provision of requisite infrastructure, intervention under IPRP provides for the location of small to medium manufacturing industries in state-owned industrial parks.

Examples can be found in the following Industrial Parks: Botshabelo and Phuthaditjaba in the Free State Province, Babelegi in the North West, and Isithebe in KwaZulu Natal.

Industrial Financial support, though funding by the National Empowerment Fund, the Industrial Development Corporation, and the Incentive Branch, has aided companies and projects in and near townships to an amount of R66 billion. Areas in, and around townships in all nine provinces have been supported through industrial finance schemes such as the Black Industrialists Programme, the IDC Social and Solidarity Grant Funding Programme, the Social Employment Fund also by the IDC as well as the Property development funding by the NEF. The latter afforded communities to own shares in malls located in township/rural areas and thus opens up new revenue streams for the community, resulting in increasing the income and livelihood of these residents. Examples include Qumbu Shopping Centre in Qumbu, Mega City Mall in Umlazi, Eyethu Mall in Orange Farm, Willowvale Shopping Centre in Willowvale, and Mavundla Square in Greytown.

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