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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 467

Beneficiation/export of manganese

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

- (1) Whether his department has any plans for the (a) beneficiation and (b) export of manganese at Coega (details furnished); if not, why not; if so, what are the (i) time frames and (ii) progress of such plans;
- (2) (a) how long has it taken for Transnet to conclude the acquisition of the manganese terminal land from the Coega Development Corporation (CDC) (details furnished), (b) what is the price difference between the (i) historical cost of land and (ii) amount that has been paid for it by Transnet;
- (3) whether land negotiations between the CDC and Transnet delayed the establishment of manganese facilities at Coega; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) why manganese companies are choosing to locate their operations in many different locations across Nelson Mandela Bay instead of within the Coega Special Economic Zone (SEZ) (details furnished);
- (5) whether he will consider the exclusion of Erf 226 from the Coega SEZ operators permit and return underdeveloped land to the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (details furnished); if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?
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REPLY:

- (1) The Coega Special Economic Zone (SEZ) was established in 2000 to improve South Africa's industrial competitiveness and drive economic growth. The SEZ

have been given the mandate to attract investment in manufacturing industries, particularly those focused on export.

(a) According to the Coega SEZ, an Aluminium Smelter during the early years of developing the SEZ was planned, however, since then, there have been no other investors whom expressed interest.

(b) (i)&(ii)

The site that has been identified for developing a Manganese Terminal for stockpiling and exporting manganese is within Transnet Port boundaries; and therefore, this question would be best responded to by Transnet.

(2) (a) According to the information received from the Coega SEZ, the Deed of Sale for the land to develop the manganese terminal was concluded between the CDC and Transnet in December 2019.

(b) (i)&(ii)

This question should be directed to Transnet.

(3) Transnet will be best placed to respond to this question as the mandate to develop the Terminal is with them.

(4) The primary reason for the number of places where manganese is stockpiled around the Nelson Mandela Bay is that there is no contemporary facility (terminal).

The delays with the development of such facility by Transnet is giving rise to this continued practice. Furthermore, Transnet has already identified a piece of land that is earmarked for such development next to the Port of Ngqura, and is adjacent to the Coega SEZ.

(5) According to information received from the Coega SEZ, it is still in the process of being developed and being gradually filled as investments are identified.

The piece of land [Erf 266] has already been identified by a potential investor and cannot be disposed of.

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