



the dtic

Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 1340

Mr M M Mdluli (DA) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

- (a) How will he align the vision and outcomes of his department to achieve the objectives of the National Development Plan 2030, which has only seven more years to run, and
- (b) What strategies will he employ in engaging various stakeholders such as business, labour and civil society in ensuring transparency, accountability and participatory governance in determining the vision and outcomes? NO1630E

REPLY:

- (a) The Government of National Unity (GNU) is founded upon a Statement of Intent that commits the signatories to a set of foundational principles that include respect for constitutionalism; accountability, transparency and community participation in government; evidence-based policy and decision-making; professionalisation of the public service; integrity and good governance.

The parties to the GNU have agreed on priorities for this the 7th Administration and the apex priority is the achievement of rapid, inclusive and sustainable economic growth to create jobs.

As President Ramaphosa stated in his address at the Opening of Parliament on the 18th of July 2024, “the Medium-Term Development Plan will set out a well-defined vision and strategic plan that outlines clear goals and includes specific, measurable objectives and a roadmap for achieving them. In all this work, the National

Development Plan Vision 2030 remains the defining blueprint for our country's growth and development.”

As **the dtic**, we have participated actively in the development of the Economic Cluster's Medium-term Development Plan (MTDP). The interventions contained in the MTDP are closely aligned to the NDP and the associated impact targets – such as GDP growth of 5.4% – are drawn from the NDP. Of course, it is important to emphasise that the NDP was developed when both the global and domestic economies were in much better shape.

Quite apart from the setback that South Africa faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have also had to content with load-shedding, the floods in 2022, the pressure to de-carbonise domestic industries, and geo-political conflicts which impact SA in many ways.

Nevertheless, **the dtic's** contribution to the MTDP, our Strategic Plan and the Annual Performance Plan all reflect NDP priorities. For example:

1. The NDP commits Government to higher levels of exports. This is a key commitment of **the dtic** and we have set ourselves the ambitious target of increasing exports by a cumulative R1 trillion over the course of the 7th Administration.
2. The NDP requires an expanded skills base and **the dtic** supports this firstly through engaging the Department of Home Affairs on its critical skills list which facilitates access to global skills, and through targeted skills development programmes to increase the training of citizens in targeted, high demand skills.
3. The NDP requires higher rates of investment and **the dtic** is the main coordinator – through InvestSA – of private-sector investment. In addition, **the dtic** continues to provide both foreign and domestic investors with a suite of incentives including Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to encourage private-sector investment. These activities and associated incentives will be strengthened during the 7th Administration.
4. The NDP rightly points to the need to develop sectors capable of creating jobs. Here too **the dtic** has an important role to play especially in the

manufacturing sector. The Department deploys its support measures to both assist sectors in distress and to encourage new investment in labour-intensive value-chains such as agro-processing, furniture, metal products and clothing and textiles.

These examples illustrate how **the dtic** has aligned its current planning and strategy interventions to the NDP as well as the MTDP.

(b) The Deputy Ministers, DG and I have been engaging with a wide cross-section of stakeholders since our appointment to the Executive. These engagements cover:

- Leading business associations such as Business Unity SA, Business Leadership SA, the Black Business Council, and the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of SA (SEIFSA);
- Many individual companies in the manufacturing sector and subsectors;
- Companies located in SEZs;
- Multilateral organisations such as the World Bank, BRICS+, WTO and the G20;
- Organised Labour; and
- Youth and community groups.

These engagements have provided critical opportunities for knowledge sharing, and have assisted greatly in identifying the 'pain points' of domestic firms and communities and therefore informing the Departmental priorities such as red-tape reduction to unlock investment and SMME growth, targeted skills programmes to ensure that availability of skills does not become a binding constraint to growth, and the creation of a transformation and youth fund to substantially increase funding to B-BEE firms, SMMEs and youth-owned enterprises.

In addition, the Department convenes the Trade and Industry Chamber of Nedlac and regularly provides feedback on the implementation of its key priorities including the Masterplans.

Finally, GNU parties have committed to an all-inclusive National Dialogue process - with political parties, civil society, labour, business and other sectors - to discuss the critical social and economic challenges facing the nation. **The dtic** will participate meaningfully in the National Dialogue process and this is expected to further enhance the relationship between the Department and its key stakeholders across a range of areas.

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