the dtic
Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 164

Mr R W T Chance (DA) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:
With regard to the cannabis masterplan that has now been transferred from the Department of Agriculture to his department (a) on what date does his department intend tabling legislation to enable the commercial exploitation of cannabis and hemp, including agro-processing and manufacture of cannabis and hemp-based products, (b) on what date will the hemp value-change development plan be put to his department's social partners, business, labour and communities for sign off and (c) what incentives will be made available to commercial growers of hemp and investors into Phyto fineries planned for the Eastern Cape? NW186E

REPLY:

I have been advised by the Department as follows.

(a) **the dtic** is consulting with relevant stakeholders on the drafting of the policy and legislation; with the aim of taking it through the Economic Cluster for Cabinet endorsement before the end of the 2025/26 FY.

(b) The Hemp Value Chain Development Plan is a key component of the broader Hemp and Cannabis Value Chain Master Plan, which is currently under development. A draft Hemp and Cannabis Value Chain Master Plan discussion document will be

finalised by the end of the 2025/26 fiscal year and subsequently presented for stakeholder engagement to ensure co-creation and alignment moving forward.

In order to support this initiative, the Department of Agriculture (DoA) has worked with the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) to commission critical research focused on - Crop breeding for Hemp and Cannabis; Utilisation of fibre and other by-products; Plant disease surveillance and mitigation strategies; Indigenous germplasm collection (to preserve genetic diversity); and the Development of a sustainable seed system for these crops. In addition, the ARC has successfully developed two new Hemp varieties, facilitated by technical and financial support from DoA. These advancements aim to strengthen South Africa's agricultural innovation and position the country as a leader in the emerging Hemp industry.

(c) The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (**the dtic**) will provide where applicable, support for the manufacture of products containing Cannabis/Hemp within its existing suite of incentives. In respect of the applications for manufacturing products containing Cannabis for medicinal use, **the dtic** will only accept and adjudicate applications which:

(i) Present a valid licence issued in terms of Section 22C(1)(b) of the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 1965 (Act No. 101 of 1965), in respect of the manufacture of medicines, scheduled substances and the manufacture of cannabidiol-containing products for medicinal use.
(ii) In addition to the licence issued by South African Health Products Regulatory Authority, also obtain and present a permit issued by the Director-General of the National Department of Health in terms of Section 22A(9)(a)(i) of the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 1965 (Act No. 101 of 1965), to manufacture products containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) for medicinal use.
(iii) In respect of applications for manufacturing products containing Cannabis for non-medicinal use, **the dtic** will only accept and adjudicate applications which present or accompanied by a Permit issued by the Director-General of the

National Department of Health in terms of Section 22A(9)(a)(ii) of the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 1965 (Act No. 101 of 1965), to manufacture products containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

(iv) In respect of applications for manufacturing products containing Hemp (low THC plants or parts of plants of Cannabis Sativa L. cultivated for agricultural or industrial purposes, of which the leaves and flowering heads do not contain more than 0,2% THC), **the dtic** will only accept and adjudicate applications, excluding primary Hemp cultivation; wherein the processed products manufactured from the raw Hemp material, is intended for industrial purposes, in a form not suitable for ingestion, smoking or inhaling purposes, including the manufacture or compounding of consumer items or products which have no pharmacological action or medicinal purposes.

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