



the dtic

Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 1697

Mr W M Douglas (MK) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

- (1) What are the reasons that his department has failed to properly fund trade attachés and commercial officers to support black-owned South African businesses in foreign markets;
- (2) whether he intends reallocating at least R1 billion from non-essential spending towards trade facilitation and investment attraction; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NW1920E

REPLY:

- (1) The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (**the dtic**) has funding allocated for foreign economic offices, with these offices set to be strengthened with a process to fill Foreign Economic Representative (FER) vacancies in select markets, following an extensive review process undertaken. In addition to support through foreign economic offices, the Department provides an exporter development programme for South African companies, which includes export awareness seminars, training and mentorship. The Department also assists South African business, including black-owned companies, to enter global markets through Export Marketing and Investment Assistance (EMIA) funding to participate in international exhibitions and missions.
- (2) The 2025 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) budget was prepared within a tight fiscal environment, where any funding pressure were and continue to be considered through reprioritisation within the Department's existing baseline.

In this regard, the Department will continue to optimise the financial resources that actively supports the work of **the dtic**, as set out in the Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plan.

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