



the dtic

Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 1877

Mr S Thambo (EFF) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

- (1) (a) On what year was the Black Industrialist Programme established and (b) what is the breakdown of the total (i) number of applications this department has received and (ii) amount of funding (aa) allocated and (bb) disbursed for the specified programme in each year since its inception up to the latest date for which information is available;
- (2) what total number of employees (a) currently perform work related to the specified programme and (b) have been part of the team for the entire duration of the programme;
- (3) whether he has been informed about the allegations of a syndicate operating within his department where some of the departmental officials are accused of manipulating the approval and site inspections processes related to the Black Industrialist Programme; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what form of investigation has his department initiated in this regard;
- (4) whether his department has disbursed funds allocated for the (a) 2025-26 and (b) 2026-27 financial years under the specified programme; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? NW2106E

REPLY:

- (1) (a) The Black Industrialists Scheme (BIS) was established in 2016.

(b)(i) On average the BIS receives 105 applications per year.

(ii) (aa) The amount of funding approved per year since inception is as per table below:

YEAR	APPROVAL AMOUNT
2016/17	R830,758,846
2017/18	R1,036,620,287
2018/19	R821,480,146
2019/20	R376,114,604
2020/21	R249,051,901
2021/22	R332,460,317
2022/23	R739,381,588
2023/24	R725,525,736
2024/25	*R462,320,677
Grand Total	R5,573,714,102

*Preliminary as the total amount is subject to verification.

(bb) The amount of funding disbursed per year since inception is as per table below:

YEAR	AMOUNT DISBURSED
2016/17	R122,501,587
2017/18	R505,119,729
2018/19	R636,306,490
2019/20	R388,636,260
2020/21	R425,946,175
2021/22	R373,255,730
2022/23	R429,841,383
2023/24	R345,745,828
2024/25	*R557,883,415
Total	R3,785,236,597

*Preliminary as the total amount is subject to verification.

- (2) (a) There are 25 officials working on the BIS programme. These officials are on different levels ranging from Trade and Investment Advisors to Chief Director.
- (b) Staff composition changes when the quantity of work changes, with staff allocated to incentives with higher numbers of applications and or claims as and when the need arises.
- (3) I am not informed about a syndicate operating within the Department relating to officials manipulating the approval and site inspection processes pertaining to the BIS programme. The position is that there is currently no information put before the Department to substantiate the allegations made. I am not aware of any investigation currently underway specifically pertaining to manipulation of approvals and site inspection processes within the BIS programme.

Checks and balances are embedded in screening and processing of applications and claims performed by different teams in order to ensure proper management.

- Internal Audit
 - Internal Audit assesses projects per year and conducts independent site visits to check for any misalignment to the Standard Operating Procedures or spurious activities.
 - Auditor General
 - The Auditor General also audits BIS projects per year and conducts independent site visits to check for any misalignment to the Standard Operating Procedures or spurious activities.
- (1) There are no funds disbursed for the financial years 2025/26 and 2026/27. Funds can only be disbursed in a relevant financial year once new payment codes are cleared by **the dtic** Finance Unit at the beginning of a new financial year, that is in early April.

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