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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 257

Adv S Salie (Al Jama-ah) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

- (1) Whether, in light of the Republic being the first nation to have taken Israel to the International Court of Justice for genocide against Palestine, his department will head the mounting calls from social justice activists to stop trading coal with Israel; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether his department intends to take further steps to extend economic sanctions against Israel; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? NW371E

REPLY:

1. Both South Africa and Israel are members of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Sanctions applied by one member against another in the absence of multilateral sanctions by the United Nations (UN), would violate the WTO principle of non-discrimination and would open the country to legal challenge.
2. South Africa and Israel do not have a bilateral trade agreement. Trade with between the two countries is governed by WTO principles.

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