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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO.: 3649

Mr T I Gamede (MK) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

With reference to the presentation of his department to the Standing Committee on Appropriations on the 2026 Appropriation Bill on 2 June 2026, which revealed that the Global Business Services (GBS) programme is critically underfunded despite delivering R9,65 in export revenue for every R1 spent (details furnished), what are the reasons that his department has not ringfenced additional allocations for the specified programmes given such exceptional returns on investment and also the projections of his department that R2,2 billion invested in GBS alone could generate R26 billion in export revenue in five years? NW3856E

REPLY:

The Global Business Services (GBS) programme has consistently demonstrated strong performance in attracting investment, generating export earnings and creating employment opportunities, particularly for young people. The programme has experienced growth in demand and has historically required additional funding through internal reprioritisation and virements to meet approved commitments.

Notwithstanding the programme's positive economic returns, the 2026 MTEF was developed within a constrained fiscal environment, requiring government departments to absorb funding pressures within existing baselines. As a result, additional funding requests across government exceeded the resources available for allocation, limiting the scope to ring-fence additional funding for individual programmes.

The department has, however, sought to prioritise the GBS programme within its available resources and has consistently redirected funding from slower-spending programmes to support approved GBS projects. In addition, the department previously submitted a request to National Treasury for additional funding to expand the programme and support further investment and job creation.

The department will continue to engage National Treasury during future budget processes to motivate for additional resources for the GBS programme, while also exploring alternative funding mechanisms that could support the continued growth and sustainability of the sector.

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