the dtic

Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO.: 3651

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

(1) In view of the Transformation and Competition programme which is projected to decline by 27,8% over the medium term, which is the sharpest fall across all programmes and primarily attributed to a once-off Social Employment Fund allocation in the 2025 26 financial year, and given the persistently high unemployment and inequality levels in the Republic, how does the National Treasury intend to sustain transformation and employment-creation momentum once that once-off allocation falls away;

(2) whether any assessment has been conducted of the socioeconomic impact of that cliff edge reduction; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NW3858E

REPLY:

(1) The Social Employment Fund (SEF) is a Presidential Employment Initiative implemented by **the dtic** through the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC). The once-off allocation made in the 2025/26 financial year was intended to support the continuation and expansion of temporary work opportunities under the programme, which has been in operation since 2021. The SEF continues to demonstrate the value of public employment in providing income support, work experience, skills development and pathways to economic participation for unemployed people, particularly women, youth and persons living in vulnerable communities.

The SEF received an allocation of R1,5 billion for the 2026/27 financial year. The Department will submit a motivation to National Treasury for funding of SEF beyond this allocation.

(2) Based on the above, the T&C allocation remains unchanged in principle and, accordingly a SEIAS is not required.

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