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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 3793

Ms S I Nkosi (MK) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

Whether, in light of reports indicating that cybersecurity vulnerabilities, information technology weaknesses and operational risks at the SA Bureau of Standards (SABS) had reportedly been identified as early as 2022, including concerns relating to cyber resilience and business continuity, his department took any steps prior to the cyber-related incidents and forensic investigation to ensure that appropriate remedial measures were implemented by the SABS; if not, why not; if so, what (a) interventions were undertaken, (b) are the reasons that the specified interventions were insufficient to prevent the subsequent governance and operational challenges and (c) long-term strategy has his department adopted to restore confidence in the SABS among industry stakeholders, regulators, investors and the public while safeguarding the strategic role of the institution within the industrial standards and quality assurance system in the Republic? NW4012E

REPLY:

(a)&(b) The ICT challenges at the SABS were identified timeously; however, the organisation lacked execution discipline. It is for this reason that the lack of action forms part of the disciplinary processes relating to matters identified in the forensic investigation report.

(c) The organisation is implementing a comprehensive Digital Transformation Plan. The disaster recovery journey continues, and significant improvements have been realised. Between January and May 2026, ICT conducted full disaster recovery tests for servers hosted in both the on-premises and Azure environments. In addition, a process of network segmentation will be implemented to isolate legacy systems. Vulnerability scans are conducted regularly to identify critical vulnerabilities that require remediation. A mandatory cybersecurity awareness and training programme was launched in April 2026 and will run



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until 31 March 2027 for all SABS staff members. The ICT function has been reimagined and now reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer for closer oversight and accountability.

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