the dtic
Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 5264

Mr R W T Chance (DA) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

Whether, with reference to the Advisory Note of the Public Service Commission of June 2026 which stated that public servants must not participate in study groups that are not formally authorised through official governmental processes, any officials in his department participated in subsequent authorised study group meetings; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what (a) were the dates of the meetings and (b) are the relevant details of the items that were discussed in the specified meetings? NW5688E

REPLY:

Ministers do not preside over party caucuses or study groups, as these are parliamentary mechanisms that fall under the purview of political parties themselves. This question should therefore be directed to the Chief Whips, who serve as the custodians of caucuses and study groups.

In addition, the Ministry and the department have taken note of the self-explanatory advisory from the Public Service Commission dated 5 June 2026 addressed to All Directors-General regarding briefing of political parties outside of the norm and related informal engagements.

However, the participation of officials from **the dtic**, where invited by the Executive, would be limited to responding to technical queries relating to matters such as legislation, policy and finance. Such participation would be managed by the DG to ensure that it does not result in preferential access to departmental information, political influence over administrative decisions or the disclosure of confidential information.

-END-