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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 540

Mr M E Nhanha (DA) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

- (1) Whether he has been informed that Taiwan, officially the Republic of China, is eager to hold talks with the government and return to the Eastern Cape to reopen closed factories in the poor areas where it previously invested; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what steps does he intend to take in this regard;
- (2) whether the Government will put the interests of the poor people in the Eastern Cape ahead of the government's ambivalent foreign policy stance towards Taiwan; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NW723E

REPLY:

- (1) In line with the One China Policy, South Africa does not maintain diplomatic relations with Taiwan. Taiwan has a Liaison Office in South Africa. The commercial relations between South Africa and Taiwan continue, with SA exports to Chinese Taipei in 2023 valued at R17.3 billion; while SA imports from Chinese Taipei in 2023 were R13.3 billion. The private sector remains free to conduct trade and investment. Since there are no diplomatic relations, Minister has not been informed of the reported interest by Taiwan to invest in the Eastern Cape.
- (2) The Government continues to put the interest of its people first in engagements with trading partners in accordance with the foreign policy. Taiwan remains free to do business and invest in the Eastern Cape or any part of the Republic.

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