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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 6219

Mr D D Klopper (DA) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

Whether, with reference to the National Treasury's efforts to conduct a national audit of ghost workers, which includes the use of cross-system audit from the SA Revenue Service, the Department of Home Affairs, the Education Management Information System, and the Higher Education and Training Management Information System, his department has (a) received and (b) formally acknowledged Circular Number 36 of 2025, dated 7 September 2025, from the Department of Public Service and Administration, titled *Mandatory physical verification of personnel on the human resource and payroll systems and updating of electronic records*; if not, what is the position in each case; if so, what (i) specific steps has he taken in response to the specified audit, (ii) total number of potential ghost workers has his department flagged through the specified process and (iii) verification process has been used to confirm and/or clear flagged workers? NW6950E

REPLY:

- (a) Yes, the Department received the Circular on 8 September 2025; and
- (b) Yes, the Department has formally acknowledged receipt of the Circular, and the DPSA has confirmed this acknowledgement –
 - i. In-line with the DPSA Circular, the Department initiated a Verification Project at the beginning of October 2025 to conduct the mandatory physical verification of all personnel on the human resource and payroll system;

- ii. As stipulated in the Circular, the due date for reporting the outcomes of the verification exercise is 28 February 2026, with which the Department will fully comply; and
- iii. The results and findings of the verification process will be consolidated and submitted to the DPSA and National Treasury upon completion of the Verification Project, and will be included in the Department's final report by 28 February 2026.

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