



MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY FOR PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER

QUESTION NUMBER: 506

WRITTEN QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

Inkosi R N Cebekhulu (IFP) to ask the Minister in The Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation:

- (1) Whether, with reference to her statement at the Three-Sphere Planning Session of the National Council of Provinces held that our National Development Plan must prioritise improved livelihoods as the true measurement of meeting development targets such as economic growth, she has implemented any specific measures and/or policies to achieve an increase in improved livelihoods that resulted from economic growth and economic inclusion; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) how is she fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors to enhance improved livelihoods flowing from economic growth and development outcomes?

[NO586E]

Reply:

- (1) The overall premise of the National Development Plan (NDP) is that improving the lives of our people will result from increased employment, increased prosperity, and a reduction in inequality. It is thus vital and necessary that there be economic growth to achieve these goals.

To support the prioritisation of the NDP goals within the annual planning and budgeting cycle, the DPME develops the Budget Prioritisation Framework. The 2024 Framework outlined four pillars and supporting interventions designed to contribute to economic growth. These are:

- i. Increased public and private employment: This is the need to support and optimise existing public employment programmes, supporting private employment through tax incentives, and supporting skills development.
- ii. Inclusive economic growth: This relates to energy security, infrastructure development and industrialisation, localisation, and reducing red tape and supporting small, medium, and micro enterprises, the township economy, rural enterprises, and the informal economy.
- iii. Optimising the social wage: This pillar calls for consideration of maintaining the real value of social grants and supporting food security.
- iv. Building a capable state: This includes modernisation of the state, reorganising and improving effectiveness of government departments and state-owned enterprises and improving municipal governance. In addition, it highlights the importance of dealing with crime, corruption, and violence, and managing and mitigating the impact of climate change.

The Framework was discussed as part of the budget process managed by National Treasury and government departments were advised to include the relevant interventions in the drafting of their Annual Performance Plans. In addition to this government's Economic Reconstruction Recovery Plan as well as other economic policies seek to achieve inclusive growth and development. Besides the challenges that we experienced such as COVID-19, government remains focus on the task to achieve inclusive growth as evidenced by the

national budget presented by the Minister of Finance in Parliament earlier this year.

- (2) In 2023 the National Planning Commission released a Ten-Year Review of the NDP, which not only outlined the challenges faced with its implementation but included a separate Call to Action that includes recommendations on how to address the challenges identified. These recommendations rely on the importance of building trust between the state, the private sector and civil society with the understanding that the social compacts that arise from these improved relations will give rise to more formal public-private partnerships. In particular, the Call to Action has identified opportunities that arise through addressing the challenges related to energy provision and security, infrastructure investment and climate change, among others. It is worth reminding the House that the NDP is not a government document but was drafted as a guide for the whole country. In addition to the work of the planning commission, I am also the focal point of the government's engagement with the private sector through the PPGI. In this regard, the government continues to engage with the private sector to ensure that we pursue a common growth and agenda. This is in addition to interventions such as the investment conference which is hosted by the President as well as our current engagement with the private sector to deal with challenges in the electricity industries.