**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**“520. Mr G R Krumbock (DA) to ask the Minister of Small Business Development:**

1. **Since her reply to question 773 on 5 April 2016, (a) what is the current status of the plan to reduce red tape in the Sol Plaatjie Local Municipality in Northern Cape, (b) what is the total number unnecessary (i) policies, (ii) by-laws and (iii) regulations that were rescinded during the process to reduce red tape in the specified municipality and (c) what total amount of administration costs will the specified intervention save businesses in the municipality;**

**(2) can she list three or more examples of the red tape that was cut because of the intervention in the municipality?”**

**NW577E**

**REPLY:**

(1) (a) Since April 2016, the Department of Small Business Development (DSBD) programme in partnership with Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), begun the process of assessing the implementation of the Red Tape Reduction (RTR) guidelines by municipalities. This process is also supported by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The assessment is based on reducing the regulatory and administrative burdens as experienced by small, micro and medium enterprises (SMMEs) and Co-operatives within the different municipalities. The assessment is based on the following seven indicators and associated legislation/regulations:

(i) Effectiveness of the complaints notification system as governed by the Municipal Systems Act;

(ii) Communication of relevant business information by municipalities to SMMEs and Co-operatives as governed by the Promotion of Access to Information Act;

(iii) Municipal building plan approval processes as governed by the National Building Standards Act, Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act as well as Municipal Services Charter;

(iv) Lengthy and inefficient supply chain management processes (which ultimately affects the 30-day payment system). Relevant legislation would be PPPFA, MFMA and Preferential Procurement Regulations;

(v) Municipal business registration and permits relevant legislation includes: Business Act, National Health Act, National Building Regulations and Building Standards Act including various by-laws those which are relevant to the business licensing process e.g. municipal by-law on food or tourism regulations;

(vi) Development and enforcement of municipal by-laws that promote business development, some of the relevant legislation include the Municipal Systems Act and Local Government Transition Act;

(vii) Assessment of percentage spent in procurement on SMMEs and Co-operatives aligned to the PPPFA and MFMA and preferential procurement regulations.

(b) In terms of **Sol Plaatjie** local municipality the total number of unnecessary (i) policies, (ii) by-laws, and (iii) regulations including associated administrative burdens considered for review regarding red tape reduction as guided by the above mentioned indicators and associated legislation/regulations are as follows: communication to SMMEs and Co-operatives is hampered due to limited and efficient intergovernmental relations, approval processes for small scale mining is cumbersome and too long, SMMEs and Co-operatives find it difficult to access tenders within the municipality and few opportunities are awarded to locals.

(c) The total amount of administration costs is determined by each municipality however the examples mentioned below outline how the red tape reduction intervention by DSBD has supported the municipality to improve governance and reduce the burden regulatory and administrative burden for the benefit of SMMEs and Co-operatives. The total value of these administrative interventions have not been calculated by the municipality.

(2) Examples that outline improvement of business environment with Sol Plaatjie local municipality include: (i) the municipality in collaboration with the Northern Cape Provincial Department of Economic Development and Tourism established am economic forum to strengthen intergovernmental relations and specifically support to SMMEs and Co-operatives, the municipality has created a tender board for SMMEs and Co-operatives opportunities within the local environment, and a constant update on the database for SMMEs and Co-operatives is maintained for local opportunities (ii) the development of informal sector by-laws in underway, (iii) the municipality is part of the revitalisation programme led by Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation as well as Department of Minerals to revitalise towns in which mines are closing down to refocus on economic opportunities for SMMEs and Co-operatives.

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