**Address by (MP) Cde Simanga Happy Mbuyane on the Budget Vote Debate of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition**

1. Oliver Tambo once said “We seek to create a united Democratic and non-racial society .We have a vision of South Africa in which black and white shall live and work together as equals in conditions of peace and prosperity. Using the power you derive from the discovery of the truth about racism in South Africa ,you will help us to remake our part of the world into a corner of globe on which all—of which all of humanity can be proud .“
2. Creating *Inclusive economic reforms to drive inclusive growth*is one of the priorities of the country as outlined in the 2021 State of the Nation Address. As a Committee, which oversees the Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition and its entities our role is to ensure that the Department and its entities have and implement programmes to support the achievement of inclusive economic growth in line with its mandate.
3. Inclusive economic growth means that everyone including black people, women, youth, people living with disabilities, and the previously disadvantaged have opportunities to participate in economic activities that will propel the country to higher levels of economic growth.
4. The mandate of facilitating inclusive economic growth that creates jobs through interventions and programmes such as the:
* Black Industrialists programme, which supports black industrialist in the productive sectors of the economy; and
* Funding from the National Empowerment Fund, which facilitates black economic participation by providing financial and non-financial support to black-owned and managed businesses.
* Inclusive economic growth if further facilitated the implementation of the Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) legislation, which aims to change the ownership and management structure of the South African economy to include black people, which were previously excluded from economic activity.
* The amended Competition Act is also one of the tools the DTIC uses to foster such inclusive economic participation by requiring the competition authorities to consider the impact on worker ownership during the merger approval process.

1. Therefore, the ANC supports these programmes as well as the DTIC processes that ensure equity and fairness in the provision of financial and non-financial support offered to businesses.

1. The ANC also supports the department’s progress on broadening participation through ownership. In particular, the facilitating of designs and implementation of worker-ownership schemes by the private sector.

1. Furthermore, in recent engagements with the department, the Committee was informed on the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on businesses and jobs, as well as what measures the department, and its entities have taken to minimise the impact and to revive the economy. Among the interventions implemented to assist businesses, protect consumers, and save jobs.

* ***Consumer Protection*** measures included the work of the Competition Commission and National Consumer Commission work to protect consumers and businesses from unfair and excessive pricing, particularly prices of essential goods such as masks and food during the pandemic.
* Support to businesses such as the:
* ***Industrial Development Corporation’s Essential Supplies Intervention programme*** supported businesses in the manufacturing of essential goods including N95 masks, surgical masks, and Hand sanitisers. This fund was allocated R800 million.
* ***National Empowerment Fund’s COVID-19 Black Business Fund***, which was financial support/ funding to black businesses to manufacture and supply essential goods such as masks, gloves, COVID-19 test kits, hospital equipment, and essential food items. The Black Business Fund was R200 million and because of this fund 1, 466 jobs were created.
* One of the many ***beneficiaries of the Black Business Fund*** is a black woman-owned company in Philippi, here in Cape Town called Rise Uniforms. The company originally was a manufacture of school and work uniforms , because of support during the COVID-19 pandemic, the company has expanded and has included masks in its production.
* In February 2020, before the pandemic, the Committee went on an oversight visit to companies funded by entities of the department, what the Committee saw was how well support from the government can facilitation job creation by the private sector.

1. The ANC applauds initiatives that support small and black businesses that create jobs, particularly in townships.
2. A quote by Karl Marx “The philosophers have only interpreted the world , in various ways ; the point is to change it.”
3. The ANC supports this budget as it would allow the department to continue implementing its mandate of facilitating inclusive economic growth as well as contribute to the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan.