



MINISTRY IN THE PRESIDENCY: WOMEN, YOUTH & PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER: 17

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 10 FEBRUARY 2022

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NUMBER 2021: 01 OF 2022

Ms M D Hlengwa (IFP) to ask the Minister in The Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities:

- (1) Whether her Office has made progress in addressing the severe underrepresentation of women in (a) various economic sectors and (b) decision-making positions in the private sector; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) What challenges have been identified in this regard? NW21E

Reply:

- (1) The NSP Pillar 5 on Economic Power has reached some key milestones. In its efforts towards accelerated initiatives that address women's unequal economic and social position, the following milestones have been achieved:

Women's Economic Assembly (WECONA) – was launched by the President on the 6 October 2021, a multi-stakeholder platform to open up market access, activate public and private sector value chains particularly on commitment and actions in terms of the 6 key industries (i.e. Energy, Agriculture and Agro-processing, Textiles, auto-motives, steel and Tourism). In each of these sectors, there has been a number of commitments made. In the current financial year there will be provincial roll-outs to scale-up the initiative. The localization and decentralization strategy for WECONA is also under consideration.

Provincial capacity building workshops are ongoing to share information on the Preferential Procurement Policy, public procurement opportunities, compliance matters



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relating to doing business with government, financial literacy and etc. This will be to directly contribute to ensuring that women owned businesses are ready and prepared to do business with government in terms of the 40% Preferential Procurement pronouncement by the President.

The MOU between the DWYPD and DALRRD is currently being implemented to ensure WYPD have access to land and the sustainable use thereof. Part of this process is envisaged to be linked to the piloting of a Women's Bakery with the Gauteng province to further boost rural and township economies.

Regarding the Sanitary Dignity Programme (SDP), the DWYPD in collaboration with the DSBD, are currently implementing a project plan on putting in place the best possible approach for WOB's to take up manufacturing opportunities within the Sanitary Dignity Programme value-chain.

- (2) Challenges remain broad and inter-sectoral but with a clear theme for the need for structural and systemic change. For instance the concentration of markets by conglomerates continues to close out the space for new entrants and foster non-competitive behaviour, funding mechanisms that are tailored to the needs of these businesses are not in place by funding institutions and workplace environments that aren't conducive to the representative growth and development of women.

Approved by Minister

Ms M Nkoana-Mashabane, MP

Date: 21.02 2022