

NOTICE OF QUESTION

RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS BY HON. APIUS AUCHAB TO THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALIZATION, TRADE AND SME DEVELOPMENT

(43)

Question

The Namibian Government has adopted planning as a management tool to ensure correct decision-making of which Vision 2030 is the heart of that strategy:

4. Can the Minister inform the House how far we as a Nation, Country and as Government with the Crafting of Industrialisation roadmap and strategy?

Response

In 2012, Namibia unveiled its first ever Industrial Policy that is aligned to Vision 2030 and the current National Development Plan - NDP 4. The Policy provides a strategic guidance and principles for industrialization of the Namibian economy. Subsequent to that, Cabinet, on 2nd December 2014, approved Namibia's Execution Strategy for Industrialisation, 'Growth at Home'. The Strategy provides a roadmap for the execution of Namibia's Industrial Policy. Thereafter, the Strategy was presented and discussed in Parliament in February this year and this August House d'accorded it.

I am therefore happy to inform the House and the Honourable Member who asked the question, that the crafting has long been completed and that we are in the implementation phase.

5. How [does] is the Namibian industrialisation roadmap and strategy aligned with the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2015 – 2020 in order to ensure that industrialisation is accorded center stage in the remaining period?

Response

Perhaps to recap, since reference has been made to the RISDP which is a SADC policy framework - the Revised SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2015 – 2020 was officially approved by the SADC Extraordinary Summit on 29 April 2015 in Harare, Zimbabwe. The main purpose of the RISDP is to deepen integration in the SADC regional economy, and this Plan itself was developed with the participation of all SADC Member States who had in mind their national industrialisation visions and aspirations but expressed in a broader context of the SADC Region.

As the name implies, the RISDP is an “Indicative” Strategy, which merely sets out the essential conditions that should be realized in order to achieve Regional Integration. In order to measure progress, the RSIDP has set out specific targets and timeframes for achievement of goals in each of the priority areas.

The Revised RISDP 2015 – 2020 identifies four (4) main Regional priorities for the remainder of the Plan and in short these are:

- i. PRIORITY A – promote industrial development and market integration
- ii. PRIORITY B – provision and improvement of infrastructure support for regional integration
- iii. PRIORITY D – promotion of special programmes of regional dimension and;
- iv. PRIORITY C – promote peace and security to underpin Priority A, B and D

For the purpose of the Question, I would like to focus on Priority A, which among others, acknowledges the role of industrial development in the achievement of regional integration through regional value chains. Indeed, it has to be acknowledged that Regional Trade goes beyond the mere exchange of goods and services but the understanding of the processes involved in the production of these goods and services and hence the need to understand value chains.

I am therefore happy to report that “Regional Value Chains” and “Bilateral Cooperation” are key features of the Growth at Home Strategy.

I am also happy to inform the House that like it is the case under priority B and C of the RISDP, the Growth at Home Strategy has identified ‘Industrial Infrastructure and Skills Development’ as key

reforms necessary to fast track industrialisation of the Namibian economy.

I hereby would like to submit therefore, that the Namibian industrialisation road map and strategy is not only aligned to, but essentially underpins the SADC regional industrialisation agenda.

6. Is the Namibian industrial policies achievable, and implementable to creating employment and uplifting the human standards of living or is it pilling up dust somewhere in the offices?

Response

Our President, His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob, in his acceptance speech in March this year, is on record that whereas “the prerequisites for a prosperous nation include good constitutions, peace and democracy. People don’t eat constitutions, peace or democracy. People eat decent food, live under decent shelter and enjoy decent employment”. He is also on record that the eradication of poverty and inequality will remain an overarching goal of his administration.

I therefore wish to inform the Honourable Member who asked the question and the House at large that the formulation of the Industrial Policy and its implementation strategy were a result of a very

consultative process, with extensive buy-in of key stakeholders both in the private sector and civil society. As such, a lot of expectations were raised and we as government and partners cannot afford to rest or worse, let these documents pile up dust in offices.

In fact, as I speak a number of initiatives have already begun towards achievement of the goals we set for ourselves therein. Among others, I am happy to indicate that:

- i. The Bill on Namibia Industrial Development Agency (NIDA) - our industrial development implementation arm, is in its finalization stages; it has been approved by Cabinet and is now with the Legal Drafters.
- ii. The Ministry has also embarked on four Sector Growth Strategies for the upgrading of the most promising value chains along the identified priority sectors in the Growth at Home strategy (agro-processing, leather processing, gemstone processing, and chemical and salt). Namibia is also in continuous discussions with neighbouring countries on the further development of bilateral value chains. The realization of both of these will see not only further growth but equally employment creation and poverty alleviation.
- iii. Through the implementation of the Industrial Upgrading and Modernisation Programme (IUMP), which is one of the key reforms in the Growth at Home, over 30

companies have now been assisted to upgrade and modernise their production processes in order to achieve growth, resulting in the retention and creation of new jobs.

- iv. Through the Sites and Premises Programme (as part of the Industrial infrastructure reforms), we continue to construct business and industrial parks to facilitate business growth and development.
- v. I am also happy to indicate that we have been hard at work to finalize the Retail Charter whose main aim is the provision of shelf space for local products in the local market. We are confident that the Charter will be rolled out in the first half of 2016.
- vi. In the same vein, public consultations on the review of the SME Policy are currently being finalized and the draft revised policy should be ready before the end of the year.
- vii. Needless to say, the Procurement Bill is under discussion in this August House.

Honourable members, I have mentioned these developments among many others, just to re-iterate that we are in the business of progress, and that the policies and strategies we have set ourselves are indeed implementable.

I THANK YOU