

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER 177 [CW237E]

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Mr D B Feldman (COPE-Gauteng) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether, with reference to the Deputy President's reply to question 10 on 25 August 2011, the National Treasury has any measures in place to integrate poor persons who (a) are excluded from market opportunities and (b) lack resources to (i) benefit and (ii) participate meaningfully in the economy; if to not, why not; if so, what (aa) measures and (bb) are the further relevant details? **CW237E**

REPLY:

As part of the Budget process, fiscal resources are allocated to social and economic priorities, such as job creation that help to integrate poor persons who are excluded from market opportunities and lack resources to benefit and participate meaningfully in the economy.

Listed below are a few examples of such programmes at a national level and the Honourable member should follow up with the relevant department should he require more details.

Government makes a direct contribution to integrating poor people into the labour market through targeted job creation programmes. These efforts are focused on expanded public works programmes, which provide an important source of work and income for less skilled and poor South Africans who would otherwise lack such opportunities and income. In Budget 2012, an additional R4.8 billion over the next three years was provided for the expanded public works programme, bringing its allocations to a total of R77.8 billion over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

- On the vote of the department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs: the community work programme received an additional R3.5 billion, enabling the number of people employed to increase to 332 000 in 2014/15 from 89 689 in March 2011. This initiative guarantees participants 100 days of work on local community priorities. By

2014/15, the community work programme will account for about 130 000 full-time equivalent jobs – just less than 1 per cent of total projected employment.

- On the vote of the department of Environmental Affairs: the natural resource management programme (Working for Water, Working on Fire) received an additional R1.1 billion, providing for a total of 135 006 jobs over the medium term from 114 000 jobs in April 2011.
- On the vote of the department of Public Works: the non-state sector programme received an additional R345 million, which will fund about 127 009 cumulative short-term jobs by 2014/15 – up from 48 358 jobs in April 2011.
- On the vote of the department of Rural Development and Land reform: the National Rural Youth Services Corps received an additional R200 million over the next three years. This skills development programme for rural youth has enrolled 7 500 participants and plans to enrol an additional 5 000 per year over the next three years.
- On the vote of the department of Arts and Culture: an additional allocation of R300 million over the MTEF period will support the creation of about 16 000 short-term jobs through the Mzansi Golden Economy strategy in the arts and culture sector.

There are also existing programmes in departments that can contribute to integrating poor people into the market economy. For example:

- The Department of Labour through its Public Employment Services Programme facilitates and supports the employability of the unemployed; under-employed and persons with disabilities by providing the following services: registration of work seekers including the development of a skills profile; career guidance and counselling; job matching and placement; as well as providing information on training, learnership and apprenticeship opportunities. Over the next three years R558 million is allocated for the provision of public employment services.
- The Department of Higher Education and Trainings National Skills Development Strategy (NSDS) iii is the overarching strategic guide for skills development. One of the pillars of NSDS iii is the development of relevant sector-based programmes addressing the needs of unemployed people and first-time entrants to the labour.

- The National Skills Fund (NSF) provides dedicated funding to support education, training and skills development for the unemployed, youth, women and people with disabilities. The NSF funds various projects targeting unemployed persons such as Business Process Outsourcing as part of the Industrial Policy Action Plan with DTI; New Growth Path; rural development programmes; co-operatives etc. Over the next three years, R6.2 billion is allocated for the training of unemployed people.
- The Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) provide learning programmes for unemployed people across sectors of the economy that include learnerships, apprenticeships and internships.