

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY
QUESTION NUMBER: 242 [CO488E]
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★242. Mr Y I Carrim (KwaZulu-Natal: ANC) to ask the Minister of Finance:

What successes are achieved by the National Treasury in upgrading economic planning and coordinating capacity of the State by working with other government departments and international agencies in producing high quality evidenced-based policy research?

CO488E

REPLY:

Honourable members, in the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement speech of 2018 I indicated that we are upgrading the economic planning and coordinating capacity of the state. Our programme, entitled: Southern Africa – Towards Inclusive Economic Development or SA-TIED is a collaboration with various government departments and international agencies to produce high-quality evidence-based policy research and build the economic policy capacity of the state. We are pleased to report immense progress in this regard.

The SA-TIED programme covers the following thematic areas:

1. Enterprise development and job creation;
2. Public revenue;
3. Macroeconomic modelling;
4. Inequality;
5. Climate change and energy transition; and
6. Regional growth.

In terms of **research**, we have published 78 research papers across these thematic areas since the start of our programme. These papers are all available on the SA-TIED website. Included in this number are 19 papers that are authored or co-authored by a South African government official as well as 22 papers by young scholars – the future economists and policymakers of our country. We believe that robust empirical research is crucial to enhance the economic planning capacity of the State. This work has already provided us with unique insights and galvanised our efforts towards transforming our economy.

In terms of **capacity building and policy bridging**, I can report to this house, that we have undertaken various initiatives to strengthen the economic planning and coordination capacity of the State. We have given 14 government officials the opportunity to obtain their PhDs in economics and related fields. We are also in the process of providing secondments to up to 12 government officials to spend time at national and international research institutes to learn from academics and policymakers across the world. In addition, SA-TIED has organized numerous capacity development initiatives targeting government officials. We have held 14 training courses in areas such as public economics and microsimulation modelling. We have also instituted regular research seminars and a series of policy workshops, including a recent policy dialogue in August on South Africa's energy transition.