



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Private Bag X424, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa. Tel. (+27 12) 444 6780, Fax (+27 12) 444 7027
Private Bag X9154, Cape Town, 8000, South Africa. Tel. (+27 21) 469 5800, Fax: (+27 21) 465 3216

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY:

Question Number: 273
Date of Publication: 29 October 2014
NA IQP Number: 6
Date of Reply: 29 October 2014

“Ms P E Adams (ANC) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

- (1) How and where does his department envisage to increase the participation of local communities for community-based tourism development;
- (2) how far has his department progressed in implementing the domestic, rural and heritage tourism strategies in support of community-based tourism?”

NO2459E

REPLY:

- (1) Tourism has huge potential to change the lives of local communities that are often located close to our most attractive tourism magnets. To reach local communities the department is guided by the National Development Plan and will use the Expanded Public Works Programme and the Tourism Incentive Programme to create jobs, build skills and support the establishment of SMMEs contributing to transformation.
- (2) The Heritage Tourism and Rural Tourism Strategies recommend the prioritisation of the eight World Heritage Sites in terms of product development and promotion to become globally competitive destinations in South Africa. Most of the World Heritage Sites are in rural nodes. The proposed development, namely; tourism signage and the construction of tourist facilities in the World Heritage Sites will benefit local communities

through opportunities for employment and businesses around the sites. During this financial year the tourism signage project will target 5 World Heritage Sites, namely Mapungubwe, Robben Island, Cape Floral Kingdom (Baviaanskloof), Richtersveld and uKhahlamba Drakensberg.

The department also envisages to increase the participation of local communities for community-based tourism development through capacity building workshops. In the financial year 2013/14 three municipalities were targeted, namely Bushbuck Ridge Local Municipality, Umkhanyakude and Vhembe District Municipalities by improving the skills of local communities, local government officials, SMMEs and cooperatives. In the current financial year Dr. RS Mompoti District Municipality and Maloti Drakensberg Route will participate in the capacity building workshops. The Maloti Drakensberg Route is a partnership which includes the National Department of Tourism, KwaZulu-Natal Ezemvelo Wildlife, KwaZulu-Natal, Free State and Eastern Cape Provincial Departments of Economic Development and Tourism, to promote community-based products along the 2,600 km route in a rural node, including the mountain Kingdom of Lesotho.