

MINISTRY OF TOURISM REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY:

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Mr J Vos (DA) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

Has his department allocated any funds for the refurbishment of municipal holiday resorts; if not, why not, given the fact that the Tourism Sector Strategy makes specific mention of this objective; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

The department does not allocate funds specifically for the refurbishment of municipal resorts. However, working with provinces and municipalities through the Social Responsibility Implementation (SRI), which is the department's Expanded Public Works Programme, applications to support the sustainability of such resorts are handled on a case by case basis.

Under the SRI programme, the Grahamstown Caravan Park in the Eastern Cape was refurbished, and the Platfontein Lodge in the Northern Cape was upgraded, for example.

The department does not have sufficient funds to finance the refurbishment of all municipal resorts, and municipalities must take responsibility for the maintenance and management of their resorts.

Working in partnership with the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), the department has conducted an audit of municipal and provincially owned tourism assets. The study identified assets that could be viable if refurbished and supported to attract the middle income market. The department has not yet invested funding based on the outcomes of the study, but has continued to fund municipalities and provinces through the Social Responsibility Initiative (SRI) programme to improve caravan parks, picnics sites, and accommodation facilities.