



MINISTER  
TOURISM  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY:**

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**12. Ms L E Ligaraba (ANC) to ask the Minister of Tourism:**

(a) How does her department drive responsible tourism in the Vhembe District Municipality, and (b) what are the key elements that define the specified district's strategic tourism route? NW15E

**REPLY:**

**RECP Assessments**

- As part of responsible tourism, the Department of Tourism is implementing the Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production (RECP) to improve resource efficiency in the South African landscape.
- RECP assessments were conducted nationally, including Vhembe District, to identify areas that are prone to high operational costs and high natural resource use.
- The assessments are done to determine the water and electricity usage within tourism institutions.
- Some of the national RECP assessments which were conducted included the Limpopo Province businesses that are confined within the Vhembe District.
- Furthermore, the assessments provided tourism establishments that have been assessed with resource efficiency recommendations.

**RECP Training**

- The Department has trained (180) youth on basic RECP training, with 20 learners from Limpopo, which includes the Vhembe Region, and is currently training (25) youth on expert-level RECP Practitioner training nationally.
- The recruited youth on the RECP program are being trained with an objective of providing tourism establishments with professional and comprehensive RECP assessments that meet international best practice standards.

### **Green Tourism Incentive Program (GTIP)**

- The Green Tourism Incentive Program (GTIP) fund is initiated to fund tourism incentives which are focused on reducing high operational costs and reducing dependency on natural resources.
- The project started in 2017 and is going countrywide, including the Vhembe District.

### **Climate Change Risk & Vulnerability Assessments (RVAs)**

- The Department of Tourism conducted climate change risk and vulnerability assessments for the South African tourism sector on the impacts of climate change; the scope also included the Nandoni corridor in the Vhembe region.
- These assessments were done to determine the exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity to inform evidence-based adaptation planning, resource allocation, and policy development, which thereby strengthen climate change resilience.

### **Universal Accessibility & Community-Based Tourism**

- Universal accessibility audits and training have been conducted in the Phiphidi waterfall.
- Feasibility studies have been conducted in the Elim area to identify opportunities and support community-based enterprises to enter the value chain. As a result, business plans were developed for the community-based enterprises.

### **Awareness Workshops**

- On an ongoing basis, the department conducts responsible tourism awareness campaigns nationally, including in the Vhembe region.
- The awareness workshops are being conducted to encourage and promote responsible tourism practices within the tourism sector.

**END**