



**MINISTER
TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY:

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4315. Ms N R Mashabela (EFF) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

What (a) partnerships has her department established with technical and vocational education and training colleges and universities to develop tourism-related technological and digital skills and (b) are the relevant details regarding the (i) participating institutions, (ii) programmes offered and (iii) total number of students and/or beneficiaries trained?

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REPLY

- (a) The Department partnered with 21 universities and private colleges across the country. the Future Leaders Challenge (FLC), the Centre for Public Service Innovation (CPSI), and Geekulcha for the implementation of the Hackathon Challenge during the 2025/2026 financial year. The objective of the Hackathon Challenge 2026 was to encourage the participants to develop People-Centred Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Innovation to enhance travel and tourism start-ups and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). A total of 46 students comprising of tourism and hospitality, developers, designers, and tech enthusiasts participated in the Hackathon Challenge. Three winning solutions were presented at the G20 Tourism Ministerial meeting held in the Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province. The Department will implement the Hackathon Challenge as one of its demand-led skills programmes in the current financial year.
- (b) The Department has established a partnership with YES4Youth in the implementation of the Work Integrated Learning Programme (Learn and Earn). In collaboration with a total of 39 TVET Colleges offering Tourism and Hospitality qualifications, a total of 820 students are being placed with host employers to acquire the required practical skills in order to meet the requirements for full qualification.

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