MINISTER
TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY:

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4714. Ms N R Mashabela (EFF) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

Given the R38,8 million under expenditure incurred at the end of Quarter Four of the 2025-26 financial year, how does her department explain the R200,98 million under expenditure incurred in Quarter One of the 2026-27 financial year, with similar reasons for variances in some cases?
NW5051E

REPLY

It should be noted that the R200,98 million under expenditure was incurred at the end of Quarter Four of the 2025-26 financial year and the R38,8 million underspending was incurred in Quarter One of the 2026-27 financial year.

R11,2 million of the R38.8 million is due to underspending on Compensation of Employees (CoE) due to unfilled positions. The Department is on a recruitment drive to fill vacancies. Additional contract employees have been employed in the HR unit to augment the capacity to speed up the filling of vacancies. It should be noted that a significant number of posts filled are internal promotions, which perpetuates the high vacancy situation. There have also been employees who have been approved for early retirement, which has contributed to the increase in the number of vacant posts. The stringent processes, including the vetting processes, also tend to contribute to the time taken to fill posts.

In Q1 2026/27 the underspending within programme 4, Tourism Sector Support Services was not related to CoE is mainly attributed to slow procurement processes in appointing service providers as well as slower processes of partners in onboarding the youth and finding host employers. The actual expenditure was below the projection for the Tourism

Incentive Programme due to fewer trade platforms supported and lower beneficiary numbers.

In Q1 2026/27, the underspending within programme 3, Destination Development was not related to COE. It resulted mainly from reconceptualised programmes as well as cancelling or shifting most planned physical stakeholder sessions to virtual ones mainly at stakeholders' request. These changes affected spending on planned travel, accommodation, venue hire, and catering.

END.