MINISTER
TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY:

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5184. Ms N R Mashabela (EFF) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

(1) Given the R38,8 million underexpenditure reported at the end of the fourth quarter of the 2025-26 financial year, as well as the mitigation measures implemented in response to the reported variances, (a) how does her department account for the R200,98 million underexpenditure reported in the first quarter of the 2026-27 financial year, particularly where similar reasons for the variances have been cited and (b) what additional measures have been implemented to prevent the recurrence of such variances;

(2) following the expenditure of approximately R885 million on tourism infrastructure projects, what total number of completed tourism facilities (a) are currently operational at full commercial capacity and (b) still require additional public funding before they can become fully operational;

(3) whether any systems are in place to assess if the projects have delivered value for money to taxpayers; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what systems?
NW5591E

REPLY

The Honourable Member is kindly referred to a response provided related to a similar question in NA 4714 (NW5051E) published on 21 August 2026 in Internal Question Paper No.30. The question was adequately responded to as reflected below:

“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 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) because of unfilled positions. The Department is on a recruitment drive to fill vacancies. The Department has employed additional contract employees in the HR unit to increase capacity and speed up vacancy filling. 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 of the 2026/27 financial year, the underspending within Programme 2 was mainly attributed to delays in the procurement of services and savings from foreign currency payments due to fluctuations in exchange rates. Some payments for goods and services were not due for payment, as these payments could only be processed in line with milestones and timelines outlined in the service level agreements for relevant projects.

In Q1 of the 2026/27 financial year, underspending within programme 3, Destination Development, resulted mainly from reconceptualised programmes and from 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.

In Q1 of the 2026/27 financial year, the underspending within programme 4, Tourism Sector Support Services 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.

(2)(a) A total of five (5) capital projects, namely Mthonsi Lodge (Eastern Cape), Matsila Lodge (Limpopo), Phiphidi (Limpopo), Nyandeni Lodge (Eastern Cape), and Western Tembuland (Eastern Cape) are operational with an additional two (2) capital projects, namely,Tisane Lodge (Limpopo) and Mapate Lodge (Limpopo), operational at limited capacity mainly for the hosting of events. A total of 32 tourism facilities where maintenance was undertaken are operational. These maintenance projects are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Tourism facilities where maintenance was undertaken that are currently in use:

Number	Project	Province
1.	Thomas Baines Nature Reserve	Eastern Cape
2.	Double Mouth Nature Reserve	
3.	Oviston Nature Reserve	
4.	Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve	
5.	Mpofu and Fordyce Nature Reserve	
6	Cwebe Nature Reserve	

7.	Gariep Dam	Free State
8.	Maria Moraka Resort	
9.	Phillip Saunders Resort	
10.	Sterkfontein Dam Nature Reserve	
11.	Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve	Gauteng
12.	Makapans Valley WHS	Limpopo
13.	Nwanedi Nature Reserve	
14.	Blouberg Nature Reserve	
15.	Musina Nature Reserve	
16.	Modjadji Nature Reserve	
17.	Manyeleti Nature Reserve	Mpumalanga
18.	Andover Nature Reserve	
19.	Songimvelo Nature Reserve	
20.	SS Skosana Nature Reserve	
21.	McGregor Work Package 1	Northern Cape
22.	McGregor Work Package 2	
23.	Doornkloof Nature Reserve	
24.	Goegap and Witsand Nature Reserve	
25.	Rolfontein Nature Reserve	
26.	Sol Plaatjie	North West
27.	Kogelberg Nature Reserve	Western Cape
28.	Goukamma Nature Reserve	
29.	Lookout Hill	
30.	De Hoop Nature Reserve	
31.	Wolwekloof Nature Reserve	
32.	Cedarberg Wilderness Area	

(2)(b) Currently only one (1) project namely, Ngove Lodge (Limpopo) requires additional funding to enable full functionality.

(3) Infrastructure and maintenance projects are audited annually by both Internal and External Auditors. These audits assess the delivery and value for money. Additionally, post construction, the Department continues to provide support to owning entities to enable long term sustainable operations at the capital project sites.

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