

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

(For written reply)

**QUESTION NO. 3248**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 41**

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**Mr M R Sayedali Shah (DA) to ask the Minister of Tourism:**

- (1) Whether his department has been involved in any tourist-related investments at the Mvezo Great Place at Mbashe (a) in the (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12 financial years and (b) during the period 1 April up to the latest specified date for which information is available; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
  
- (2) whether his department has put any construction at this site to tender; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) which contractors were appointed for each specified project, (b) how does his department (i) monitor and (ii) evaluate the progress of each specified project and (c) what is the estimated completion date of each specified project;
  
- (3) whether his department is in partnership with any other department at the Mvezo Great Place; if so, (a) which department and (b) what are the further relevant details?

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## THE MINISTER OF TOURISM ANSWERS:

(1) (a) (i) – (iii) The Department of Tourism is involved in the Mvezo Great Place at Mbashe as part of the EC-Mbashe, CoffeeBay, Mvezo, Nelson Mandela Museum Expanded Public Works Programme project of the Department of Tourism that is being implemented in terms of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). The said project is implemented in two (2) phases. The Department of Tourism only became involved in the project with effect from 1 April 2010 after the project was ceded to it when the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism was split in terms of the Presidential notice 48 of 2009. Phase 1 was funded for R14, 625,000 from 2007 to 2011 and was completed on 31 August 2011. Phase 2 was funded for R28, 500,000 from 2010 with an envisaged completion date of 31 July 2013. The project scope involves the following :

### Phase 1:

- Build lower site guard hut
- Construct upper site parking
- Construction of the multipurpose centre,
- Building of the craft node
- Construction of the cultural centre
- Landscaping

### Phase 2:

- Perimeter fence for the site
- Construction of veranda on the multi-purpose centre
- Earthworks
- Building of the Lapa
- Construction of kitchen and entertainment area
- Manufacture of furniture and procurement of equipment for the Craft Node
- Building of accommodation facilities (backpackers and self-catering)
- Upgrading of electricity
- Installation of lightning protection
- Sewer reticulation
- Bulk water reservoirs
- Construction of internal roads, pedestrian walkways, rehabilitation of old gravel road
- General landscaping.

(2)(a) The project implementing agent was already appointed when the Department of Tourism took over the project in April 2010. The implementing agent's responsibility is to manage the project and to oversee the implementation of the deliverables of the project which includes the appointment of service providers to undertake certain elements of the infrastructure project within a defined business plan.

In Phase 1 the implementing agent unbundled the project into subcontracts as follows:

- Thatched roofs were done by AJ Thatching
- Electrical Reticulation was done by Bloomingdale Electrical
- Brickwork , finishes, plumbing, corrugated roof was done by Volley & Hunt
- Water was done by RJN Projects
- Glazing was done by Amatola Glass
- Landscaping was done by Roots & Culture

In phase 2 the deliverables were put to tender by the implementing agent resulting in the short listing of 3 contractors and ultimately the award of the contract to Inyatsi Construction.

2(b) (i) and (ii) The monitoring and evaluation of process of each EPWP project comprises the following actions:

- Regular site Inspection visits are done by the officials of the Department as well as unannounced visits by the officials of the department
- Office Administration inspection of the implementer to check on invoices and on expenditure of the funds by the Department
- Project Advisory Committee Meetings are held bi-monthly to discuss progress and bottlenecks.
- Annual audit by the Independent External Auditor of the project

2(c) Phase 1 of the project was completed 31 August 2011 and phase 2 is expected to be completed by 31 July 2013.

(3) The department is not implementing its project in partnership with any other Department. Other entities are independently involved in the project of which the details are as follows:

- Department of Rural Development and Land Reform responsible for Road construction and Community Rural Development Programmes (CRDP)
- Department of Environmental Affairs responsible for greening.
- National Lotteries responsible for the Mvezo Interpretative Centre.