



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY :

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY:

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Mr T J Brauteseth (DA) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

- (1) Does his department have a policy on coastal local authorities joining the International Blue Flag Beach Programme; if so, does his department encourage coastal municipalities to join the scheme;
- (2) does his department help to fund the upgrading of infrastructure in order to assist coastal municipalities in their applications; if not, which department is responsible for assisting local municipalities; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) No, the Department of Tourism does not have a policy on coastal local authorities joining the International Blue Flag Beach Programme, as it is at the discretion of each municipality to opt to join the scheme. Currently, the programme is managed by the Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA), along with participating local authorities under the Department of Environmental Affairs' Coastcare initiative.
- (2) No. The Department of Tourism does not currently fund municipalities in their applications for Blue Flag Beach status. The Department of Tourism does not know of a department that provides such funding to municipalities.