



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY:**

**Question Number:** 2947  
**Date of Publication:** 21 November 2014  
**NA IQP Number:** 28  
**Date of Reply:** 08 December 2014

**“Mr G R Krumbock (DA) to ask the Minister of Tourism:**

- (1) With regard to his department's Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge, which forms part of the Social Responsibility Implementation (SRI) programme, how many extra permanent jobs have been created as a result of the R19 500 000 investment made by his department;
- (2) what has been the annual profit or loss generated by the lodge in each financial year since the R19 500 000 was invested;
- (3) (a) what is the industry's benchmark for visitor arrivals at a lodge of this type, (b) has the lodge been meeting this benchmark and (c) what are the relevant details?

**NW3591E**

**REPLY:**

Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge is not owned by the Department. It is owned by the Batlokoa Community.

1. A total of thirty-five (35) permanent jobs were created. This is a 52% increase in employment since 2009. Following the completion of the renovations, the staff complement is expected to increase to at least fifty (50) employees.
2. The Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge management has reported that, with the increased turnover and expansion of staff, there was a commensurate increase in operating costs and the lodge is therefore still operating at a loss. However, the lodge is projected to turn profitable in the financial year ending 30 June 2016.

3. (a)(b)(c) Not applicable. The renovation of Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge is ongoing with the lodge accommodation scheduled to be fully renovated by June 2015. It is therefore difficult to evaluate it as a finished product against the industry benchmark.