

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For oral reply)

QUESTION NO. 325

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 35

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Mrs J M Maluleke (ANC) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

How is it envisaged that the new heritage route, Seragona Heritage Experience, which was launched in the North West province, will (a) promote cultural and heritage attractions, (b) benefit the communities in the area and (c) create jobs?

NO3630E

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THE MINISTER OF TOURISM ANSWERS:

Response to the Parliamentary Question on the Segarona Heritage Experience

1. Background

Segarona Heritage Experience is a self-drive route that highlights the local heritage and culture of the Batswana people indigenous to the North West province. The route was developed to link the local communities in the corridor between two of the most popular parks in the province and in the country; **Pilansberg National Park** and the **Madikwe Game Reserve**.

There are nine clans that reside in this area as well as a large variety of plant and wildlife and the route will offer travelers the chance to experience what the local culture and environment has to offer. It emphasizes the heritage of the area with attractions such as the **Kaditshwene Village Ruins** and the ruins of **Livingstone Mission Station** in Lehurutshe (Zeerust).

2. Answer to the Question:

A. The route packages the heritage experience that includes the following cultural and heritage attractions:

- Mmakau Heritage site in Brits.
- Molokwane Historical site in Rustenburg.
- Mphebotho Museum at Moruleng, Pilanesburg.
- Vleichfontein Mission Station within Madikwe Game Reserve.
- Kaditshwene Village Ruins in Zeerust.
- Livingstone Mission Station Ruins at Gopane, Zeerust.
- Dinokana Eye at Dinokana in Zeerust.
- Indigenous Setswana festivals in the surrounding villages of Moshana, Motswedi, Lekgopung, Supingstad, Ramotswa, Dinokana, Gopane.

The route is also linked to the Gateway to Freedom Route which profiles the significant locations/areas/villages used by cadres as crossing spots to exiles during apartheid era.

B. The benefit to the communities in the affected areas as result of the route are tremendous including in the following areas:

- It will stimulate Enterprise development in the area.
- Increase tourism investment in the affected areas.
- Create tourism awareness among the communities and hence increase community participation in the industry.
- Stimulates rural tourism development in the province.
- Preserve the heritage, cultural as well as historical sites in communities.
- In the ultimate the route will serve as departure point for the implementation of National Heritage and Cultural Tourism Strategy.

C. The route shall contribute to job creation as follows:

- The route will increase the tourism volumes to the province hence increase the number of jobs created as a result **(according to traditional method of calculating the number of tourism jobs created)**
- Stimulation of enterprise development and increased private sector investment will automatically result in more jobs created.