
NCOP

QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER: 133 (CO521E)
DATE OF PUBLICATION: 16 October 2013 (NCOP IQP: no 30)
DATE OF REPLY: 24 October 2013

Mr T M H Mofokeng (ANC-FS) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

Whether any efforts (a) are being made or (b) have been made by his department to get the cooperation of provinces and municipalities to promote and commit funding for tourism; if not, (i) why not and (ii) what are his department's plans in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? CO521E

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM ANSWERS:

(a) & (b)

The organizational structure of the Domestic Tourism Branch within NDT is provincially focused and are divided into two regions: Northern Region (Limpopo, North West, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, KZN and Southern Region (Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Northern Cape and Free State), headed by Chief Directors.

The Department engages through workshops and other fora (Provincial Coordinating Forum composed of provinces, SALGA, Tourism Enterprise Partnership (TEP), CATHSETA and SAT) where the importance of allocating budget for tourism development, promotion and maintenance of tourism infrastructure is emphasized.

The department facilitated the development of a Tourism Budget Programme Structure in partnership with National Treasury for Provincial Tourism Departments. The exercise entailed the identification of core tourism focus areas/programme to be pursued by provinces. The focus areas were taken from the NTSS, and Provinces were able to come up with a budget structure for tourism.

The Department is in the process of rolling out the Capacity Building Programme. This is partly intended to create better understanding of tourism and its benefits at local level, thereby making it easy for

municipalities to see value and allocate budget for tourism. In relation to that, the pilot project has been implemented to train municipal officials in areas like research, planning and policy etc.

Moreover, the department has awareness creation sessions on the importance and benefits of tourism with municipalities. These included the rolling out of tourism toolkit for local government, which outlined typical tourism infrastructure that municipalities ought to maintain.

Apart from that, the department hosted the Local Government Tourism Conference. The conference emphasized the importance of tourism at local level and the need to ensure that there is budget allocation for tourism initiatives.

(b) (i)- (ii) Not Applicable.