

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER: 135 (CO523E)
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Mrs K V Kekesi (ANC-NW) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

- (1) Whether any unfunded posts still exist in his department; if so, (a) how many, (b) what is the reason for the existence of such posts, (c) what is the impact of such posts on the capacity of his department to carry out its functions, (d) what measures and strategies (i) have been or (ii) will be put in place to address and rectify this situation and (e) what are the further relevant details;
- (2) whether any other weaknesses still exist in his department; if so, (a) what weaknesses, (b) what is the impact thereof on his department or its capacity to deliver on its mandate and (c) what measures and strategies (i) have been or (ii) will be put in place to address and rectify such weaknesses?

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THE MINISTER OF TOURISM ANSWERS:

- 1.(a) After the reconfiguration of the department on 1 April 2012, an establishment of 602 posts was approved, of which 111 unfunded.
- (b) Upon establishment in 2009 the department was structured around existing functions which served the Tourism industry to a large extent. The new strategic direction of government however required the reconsideration of the composition of the department. The establishment was as such reconfigured and extended with approved posts being funded in a phased-in approach.
- (c) The department is functioning well and in the first year after the reconfiguration prioritised the training of affected staff and the recruitment of suitably skilled staff into, newly funded critical posts, in the reconfigured areas (e.g. Senior and Middle Management posts).
The Tourism Incentives Programme function was recently taken over from the Department of Trade and Industry, and whilst some posts were funded to deal with this function, further posts are to be funded in the new financial year.
- (d) (i) The department identified the critical posts and funded such in the initial stage. This includes all Senior Management posts.

(ii) The establishment is funded using a phased-in approach. The focus in terms of funding for 2013/2014 will be on Assistant Director posts in the International Management Branch and in the Domestic Management Branch (e.g in the Tourism Incentives Programme).

(e) Not applicable

(2) (a) None within Medium Term Expenditure Framework

(b) Not applicable

(c) (i) Not applicable

(ii) Not applicable