



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref:02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 264 FOR ORAL REPLY: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

A draft reply to **Mr J P Parkies (Free State: ANC)** to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

**MS NOSIPHO NGCABA
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

**MR D A HANEKOM, MP
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS (ACTING)**

DATE:

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
(For oral reply)

QUESTION NO. 264 {CO595E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 40 of 2018

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 22 October 2018

Mr J P Parkies (Free State: ANC) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:

- (a) What (i) role and/or (ii) contribution is the Department of Environmental Affairs playing in the greening of the townships; and
- (b) how has this programme contributed to the creation of short-term employment?

264. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

- a) (i) The Department of Environmental Affairs, through the Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programme (EPIP), is funding a number of projects focusing on Greening and Open Space Management (GOSM) in urban and rural areas. Assistance is provided to municipalities to intervene in poorly managed areas, such as unmanaged open spaces, illegal dump sites, eroded areas, as well as areas overgrown with vegetation. The transformation of these areas into recreational areas for the communities to relax and enjoy the natural environment is of utmost importance. This may also improve the well-being of communities and the aesthetics of the areas.

The categories of projects implemented under the GOSM sub-programme are:

- Establishment, refurbishment, rehabilitation and maintenance of environmentally friendly recreational parks;
- Establishment of communal and memorial parks (rose garden, labyrinth, and memorial garden);
- Eradication of illegal dumps and conversion into functional areas;
- Development of Green Villages which promotes rainwater harvesting systems; recycling of grey water; food security (fruit trees, herbs and medicinal plants, aquaculture, subsistence farming, vegetable gardens);
- Installation of solar powered energy systems, solar water heaters and solar lighting;
- Installation of boreholes;

- Establishment of nurseries and associated infrastructure; and
 - Construction of environmental education centres.
- (ii) Through the implementation of projects under the GOSM sub-programme, issues relating to conservation and environmental protection are addressed and eventually respond to the service delivery outputs and the mandate of the Department. The development of an open space network is an integral part of shaping the community areas, as well as a pull factor for investments in areas. The integration of greening and open space management into any developmental objectives and plans by municipalities is equally important.
- b) The EPIP is implemented under the auspices of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), with clear objectives of better environment management practices, job creation, skills development and strengthening support to the Small, Medium and Micro-sized Enterprises (SMMEs). As the public employment programme, the implementation of the projects is using labour intensive methods that enables the Department to provide opportunities for short-term employment to the immediate communities, especially historically disadvantaged groups namely women, youth and people with disabilities. In the Free State Province alone, the Department has, since 2010, funded and implemented a total of 13 projects with a total project budget of **R110 138 135.00** in various municipalities. The table below summarises the contribution to temporary job creation that has been achieved by the funded projects:

Table 1: Summary of contribution by DEA to temporary job creation since 2010

PERSON DAYS	P/DAYS WOMEN	P/DAYS YOUTH	P/DAYS DISABLED	WORK OPPORTUNITIES	FTEs	TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET
301167	183389	186257	8622	1799	1185	R110 138 135.00

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