



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: 02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 79 FOR ORAL REPLY: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

A draft reply to **Mr G G Mokgoro (ANC-NC)** to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

Mr Fundisile Mketeni
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE:

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 79

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 10 of 2013 CO218E

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Mr G G Mokgoro (ANC-NC) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

Whether her department has any plans or strategies in place to ensure that more visitors from the historically disadvantaged communities access national parks and conservation areas in South Africa; if not, (a) why not and (b) what are her department's plans and strategies in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

Mr G G Mokgoro (ANC-NC)

SECRETARY TO PARLIAMENT

HANSARD

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THE MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS ANSWERS:

- (a) Yes
- (b) The Department's plans and strategies in this regard include the following:
 - (i) The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), in partnership with the Department of Basic Education, the South African National Parks (SANParks) and Pick n Pay, have been implementing the Kids in Parks Programme since 2004. The programme is an environmental awareness programme that provides meaningful environmental learning within the framework of the national curriculum to previously disadvantaged learners and educators. The programme offers access opportunities to 5 000 learners and 200 educators each year to ten ten (10) national parks. The DEA also has a People and Parks Programme which, among others, promotes access to national parks and the associated natural and cultural resources by local communities.
 - (ii) National Parks Week is a campaign that offers free access to protected areas during September of each year. The whole idea of the campaign is to encourage all South Africans, especially those from communities near protected areas, to experience the park environment.
 - (iii) Kudu Green School Initiative (KGSi) is a SANParks environmental education initiative aimed at raising awareness and interest among urban children in conservation and climate literacy while assisting them to respond to local environmental challenges that affect their schools and communities
 - (iv) "IMBEWU" is a programme which provides the youth with an educational wilderness experience intended to build an emotional attachment to the environment and appreciation for the system of national parks. On return to their communities and schools, the youth are expected to start conservation clubs and school or community based environmental projects.
 - (v) The Junior Ranger Programme is a voluntary programme meant to enhance career development in the field of environmental science and conservation and provides a platform for the youth to contribute towards the conservation of their environment.

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