



environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For oral reply)

QUESTION NO.793 {NO4219E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 46 of 2023

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Mr M E Dlamini (ANC) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

Considering that the Municipal Cleaning and Greening Programme, which she launched in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality, envisages a mass employment programme to prevent environmental degradation and reduce litter and illegal dumping throughout the Republic, by what date does she intend expanding the specified project to all provinces, as it addresses the two key challenges of environmental conservation and a direct response to the unemployment problem in the Republic.

793.THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

The Cleaning and Greening programme of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) has been implemented since July 2022 in District Municipalities of all nine (9) provinces. The programme has created 37 049 Work Opportunities to date. Furthermore, the Presidential Cleaning and Greening projects target fourteen (14) municipalities that are predominantly capital cities of the 9 provinces in South Africa which started with implementation since September 2023. The key criteria are based on the potential positive impact in both the cleaning of the streets of priority municipalities, as well as job impact.

Under the Municipal Cleaning and Greening initiative, the DFFE has prioritised municipalities across the country. It is acknowledged that, municipalities spend more from their budgets to curb illegal dumping hotspots and littering. The Municipal Cleaning and Greening initiative has been proposed with a long-term goal where participants are being employed to conduct clean-ups and eradicate illegal dumping within the municipalities. The initiative is executed with an intention to promote and encourage all communities in the country to take charge of their spaces and protect the environment from the effects of poor waste management.

This initiative will assist municipalities to accelerate their work on education and awareness raising whilst empowering communities to take charge of their spaces. The implementation of the Municipal Cleaning and Greening initiative marks a significant step towards the goal of achieving the targets for waste avoidance and minimisation in South Africa.

An element of the Cleaning and Greening initiative includes planting of trees in the rehabilitated dumping sites and to households as part of the Departmental National Greening Strategy. The Strategy provides for planting of both indigenous trees in line with the water scarcity of the country, and fruit trees to contribute towards food security. This also contributes to the Presidential Ten Million Tree Programme, a multi-stakeholder initiative which aims to plant a total of 10 million trees over a five-year period. The municipalities have a responsibility of ensuring that the trees planted are taken care especially those planted in open areas.

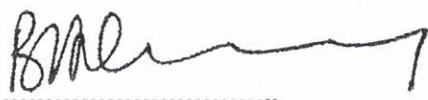
Communities are responsible for maintaining the trees within their households. This initiative is supported by awareness creation sessions to ensure that communities start to appreciate the role of the trees within their communities. A total of 225 000 trees will be planted throughout the country by the Department during this financial year.

The mass employment element is done to address the challenge of unemployment and the alleviation of poverty in communities. The Municipal Cleaning and Greening Programme is currently implemented across the nine provinces. Noting the role of capitals and other primary cities in provincial growth and development strategies, the Department has allocated 2000 work opportunities to be created for each capital and/or primary city. The programme is rolled out across the 9 provinces with an intention to appoint participants over a 12 month period. Through the Municipal Cleaning and Greening Programme, the Department has in the current financial year created 37 049 work opportunities, inclusive of the capital cities. The work opportunities created per province are as follows: 8028 in the

Eastern Cape municipalities; 3 269 in the Free State; 815 in Gauteng; 12 020 in KwaZulu-Natal; 4 263 in Limpopo; 2 546 in Mpumalanga; 1 670 in the North-West; 3 200 in the Northern Cape and 1 238 in the Western Cape. The 37 049 work opportunities created includes 5 065 participants employed throughout the capital cities within the Municipal Cleaning and Greening Programme.

The Cleaning and Greening programme has already yielded several benefits, some of which include, but are not limited to the following:

- Cooperative governance in that the three spheres of government work together in providing citizens with a comprehensive package of services. As an example, it enhances commitment from stakeholders to also provide resources, such as providing PPE and tools of trade to reduce dependence on the DFFE as the funder.
- Proactiveness: Strengthening partnerships and linkages with existing service delivery initiatives in a manner that is changing the narrative; and
- Efficiency: Hands-on approach, competency of existing human capacity and a risk management strategy.



MS B D CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 28/11/2022