



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref:02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 260 FOR WRITTEN REPLY: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

A draft reply to **Ms C Labuschagne (Western Cape: DA)** to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

**MS NOSIPHO NGCABA
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

**DR B E E MOLEWA, MP
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

DATE:

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 260 {CW355E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 19 of 2018

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Ms C Labuschagne (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:

Whether, with regard to Operation Phakisa as a special project of former President Jacob Zuma, she will implement the (a) priorities and (b) projects as defined by Operation Phakisa; if not, why not; if so, which (i) projects and (ii) priorities will her Department focus on?

260. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

(a) and (b) Yes.

Operation Phakisa is a Government Programme which is an innovative, pioneering and inspiring approach that is designed to enable the Government to implement its policies and programmes better, faster and more effectively.

The Department of Environmental Affairs will continue to coordinate the implementation of the priorities and projects as defined by Operation Phakisa programmes namely, the Oceans Economy, Biodiversity and Wildlife Economy and the Chemicals as well as the Waste Economy.

(i) and (ii)

The priorities as defined by Operation Phakisa are currently being implemented and these include priorities within the Oceans Economy Phakisa programme, the Biodiversity Economy Phakisa programme and Chemical and Waste Phakisa Programme which are elaborated on below.

Operation Phakisa: Oceans Economy

For Operation Phakisa: Oceans Economy, the initiatives that have been prioritised span across Six (6) Growth or Focus Areas, with lead departments in each area. These have been identified to contribute to unlocking the economic potential of South Africa's oceans, based on their potential contribution to economic growth, investment and job-creation. The 2014 Operation Phakisa: Oceans Economy Lab resulted in the development of detailed three feet plans that determine these projects and actions in the following Focus Areas, namely:

- Marine Transport and Manufacturing led by the Department of Transport;
- Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration led by the Department of Mineral Resources;
- Aquaculture led by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries;
- Marine Protection Services and Ocean Governance led by the Department of Environmental Affairs;
- Small Harbours Development led by the Department of Public Works (three feet planning Lab to commence in 2018); and
- Coastal and Marine Tourism (Cabinet approved the Lab outcomes in August 2017).

These six Focus Areas are supported by cross-cutting strategies in the areas of:

- Skills Development and Capacity Building led by the Department of Higher Education and Training; and
- Research, Technology and Innovation led by the Department of Science and Technology.

The Oceans Economy is part of the job drivers of Government's Nine Point Plan to grow the South African economy. New initiatives and projects that will further advance the economy, attract investments and create jobs will continue to be explored in conjunction with relevant departments and key stakeholders.

Operation Phakisa: Biodiversity and Wildlife Economy

The Department will continue to lead and implement initiatives emanating from Operation Phakisa: Biodiversity and Wildlife Economy. This is being implemented in conjunction with key departments such as Science and Technology, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Rural Development and Land Reform; Arts and Culture; Tourism and other relevant departments and key stakeholders.

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) partnered with the National Department of Tourism (NDT) in championing and convening the Operation Phakisa-Biodiversity Economy in an attempt to unlock and optimise the biodiversity economy as well as coastal and marine tourism, utilising the Operation Phakisa methodology. The Operation Phakisa-Biodiversity Economy was convened from 10 April to 13 May 2016. The Operation Phakisa-Biodiversity Economy worked on a full-time basis for a 05 (five) week period to gather and prioritise issues and develop solutions and action plans to unlock growth, job creation and transformation in the bioprospecting/biotrade, wildlife and coastal and marine (C&M) tourism sectors. The Department of Environmental affairs is responsible for the implementation of initiatives related to the bioprospecting/biotrade and wildlife workstreams whilst the Department of Tourism is responsible for the implementation of coastal and marine tourism initiatives although briefly the Coastal and Marine Tourism work stream detailed initiatives to identify and elevate events, routes and attractions along South Africa's coastline; support high-potential infrastructure projects by unlocking roadblocks that are delaying implementation; and promote South Africa internationally as a coastal and marine tourism destination. As key enablers, it also developed initiatives to enhance skills support for Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) in the sector, and to streamline and coordinate permitting for tourism activities. **The Department of Arts and Culture is an integral part of the biodiversity economy implementation and provides strategic support in the delivery of key initiatives associated with their mandate.**

(i) Biodiversity Economy Phakisa Project (Programme)

The Biodiversity Economy Phakisa is divided into two main streams, namely, Wildlife Economy and Bioprospecting/trade economy streams.

Wildlife Work-stream

The Wildlife work stream detailed initiatives to actively facilitate transformation of the sector through prioritisation of land for wildlife economy activities; and establishing, supporting and capacitating new entrants in the sector. An opportunity was also identified to drive growth by unlocking demand and promoting 'value' and production, particularly of game meat. The work stream also developed initiatives to strengthen the enabling environment for the wildlife sector, and address the reputation and conservation risks in the sector, and also leverage on protected- and surrounding areas to unlock economic potential.

(ii) Priorities for the Wildlife Economy

- a) Identify and prioritize 10m hectares for transformation of wildlife economy.

- b) Establish, develop and support new wildlife ranching entrants including business set up support, infrastructure and game ownership programmes.
- c) Increase capacity and support for (at least) 300 Traditional Authorities, Trusts and Communal Property Associations.
- d) Create supply chain linkages and capacitate 4,000 SMMEs (new and existing) to locally capture the value of ancillary goods and services to the wildlife economy.
- e) Operationalise 11 biodiversity economy nodes that enhance the economic potential of Protected and non-Protected Areas.
- f) Empower 4,000 emerging entrepreneurs and farmers through focused capacity building programmes.
- g) Formalise SA game meat market and create a network of game meat processing facilities.
- h) Implement a campaign that drives participative transformation and consumer growth for wildlife related activities and products.
- i) Create an enabling legislative environment through the amendment of NEMBA.
- j) Develop and implement wildlife industry standards.
- k) Develop and Implement a national wildlife economy certification scheme.
- l) Develop and implement an electronic wildlife permitting system and centralised database.
- m) “Re-position” the Wildlife Forum as an efficient interdepartmental/ industry collaboration and co-ordination platform to promote the benefits of the Wildlife Economy.
- n) Develop an integrated knowledge/evidence generating and sharing platform to support the wildlife economy.
- o) Leverage protected areas to unlock economic potential.

Bioprospecting Work-stream

The Bioprospecting work stream detailed initiatives to increase supply of high-value indigenous plant species through mass cultivation and sustainable harvesting; increase demand and local value-add through better coordination of stakeholders, harnessing existing initiatives and accelerating innovation in the sector through a new Bio Products Advancement Network South Africa (BioPANZA). It also developed enabling initiatives to simplify the regulatory environment to enhance growth, and transform the sector through direct involvement of communities and holders of traditional knowledge.

Priorities for Bioprospecting/trade economy

- a) Promote a mass cultivation drive of 25 plant species of strategic importance and increase cultivation by 500 hectares per annum.
- b) Define management plans to ensure sustainable wild harvesting of 7 high value plant species to safeguard long term supply.
- c) Establish a coordinating and facilitating BioPANZA (Bio Products Advancement Network South Africa) to harness existing initiatives and to address the innovation chasm.
- d) Fast tracking amendments of Chapter 6 of National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act (NEM:BA) to ease compliance while ensuring protection of the rights and benefits of traditional knowledge (TK) holders and alignment with Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.
- e) Improve efficiencies in the Bioprospecting Access and Benefit Sharing (BABS) permitting system.

Through the Operations Phakisa methodology, detailed 3-Feet implementation plans were developed for each work stream, breaking down each initiative into clear activities, and 3 feet actions. The implementation plan also indicates deliverables for each activity, the responsible institution, the leading individual, and planned start and end dates for activities. Various projects related to these initiatives have already been initiated. Progress on implementation is being reported to the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

Operation Phakisa Chemicals and Waste Economy

The Department of Environmental Affairs will also continue to lead the implementation of the initiatives and outcomes of the Operation Phakisa: Chemicals and Waste in conjunction with the departments of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs; Trade and Industry; Economic Development; Small Business Development; Water and Sanitation; Science and Technology; Basic Education; Mineral Resources; Labour and other key departments and stakeholders.

From the Lab Phase of the Chemicals and Waste Economy Phakisa, twenty (20) priority initiatives have been identified for implementation over the next 5 years. These initiatives include:

Bulk industrial waste	Municipal	Product design and waste minimisation	Chemicals	Cross-cutting initiatives
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1) Increase ash uptake for alternate building materials	6) Introduction of an E-waste levy to increase collection rate	11) Developing capacity through a specialised programme which upskills agri-stakeholders to minimize food loss	16) Establish a refrigerant reclamation and reusable cylinder industry	19) Coordinate SMME development opportunities across initiatives
2) Accelerate innovation and commercialize existing R&D1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Use ash as soil ameliorant</i> ▪ <i>Use ash to treat acid mine drainage and backfill mines</i> 	7) Unlocking government ICT legacy volumes	12) Consumer awareness campaign to use and consume ugly food	17) Ban import of harmful chemicals (e.g. leaded paint/paint pigments)	20) Roll out national awareness campaigns
3) Export ash and ash products	8) Achieving a minimum of 50% of households separating at source by 2023	13) Compilation/update of packaging design guidelines	18) Collect and dispose stockpiles of harmful substances (asbestos, mercury)	
4) Zero sewage sludge to land(fill) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Anaerobic Digester Biogas to Energy</i> ▪ <i>FBR Thermal Treatment</i> 	9) Introduction of materials recovery facilities and palletisation plants to increase plastic recycling rates	14) Formalising the packaging industry producer responsibility plans		
5) Towards Zero meat production waste to land(fill) by 2023	10) Produce building aggregates and construction inputs from rubble and glass	15) Establish an refuse-derived fuel plants across South Africa		

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