

MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

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Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism

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Departement van Ekonomiese
Ontwikkeling, Omgewing en Toerisme

SUBJECT: ANSWERS FOR QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

1. The Honourable R.C Mahlobogoane, ANC, to ask the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism:

The Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism is, amongst other things, tasked with the responsibility of creating both job opportunities and business opportunities for residents of Mpumalanga Province.

- i) **Can the Honourable MEC elaborate on the progress made to achieve the noble idea of creating business entrepreneurs who partner with our government and civil society at large in a fight against poverty?**

Answer:

Mpumalanga Business LaunchPad

The Department has started an initiative called, the *Mpumalanga Business LaunchPad*, which is a competition open for new business ideas and existing SMMEs. This completion was initiated by Enablis, a non-profit organisation supported by the Government of Canada, Khula, FNB and Microsoft.

Its objectives are to:

- Incentivise and encourage young entrepreneurs to develop and activate business ideas and business plans;
- Enhance the level of business planning skills of aspiring entrepreneurs;
- Identify suitable promising start-ups and existing businesses for further development and financial assistance.

The Department started running the programme in the year 2009. During the same year, 20 entrepreneurs won the provincial chapter, whereas four (4) became winners in the national final competition. In 2010, 18 winners won the provincial chapter and participated in the national finals on 16 March 2011 in Pretoria.



Youth Entrepreneurship Programme

The Department started a programme known as the **Mpumalanga Youth Entrepreneurship** in 2009, whose intent is to assist the youth with basic equipment which they require as start-up for their businesses. During the same year, three (3) winners benefitted by receiving equipment to the value of R330,000.00. Last year, three (3) winners also benefitted by receiving equipment worth R330,000.00.

Kusile Power Station

Through the construction of Eskom's Kusile Power Station, a total of 150 businesses from the province benefitted by becoming suppliers of goods and services to the projects, mainly by sub-contracting. They collectively benefitted to the tune of R600 million.

ii) How many young business entrepreneurs have been consciously created by this department through MEGA?

Answer:

STILL AWAITING A RESPONSE FROM MEGA

iii) Are there plans to create such business entrepreneurs?

Answer:

2. The Honourable Anthony Benadie, DA MPL, to ask the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism:

In terms of Rule 102 of the Standing Orders:

It is rumoured that a Mr Sibusiso Buthelezi (formerly from Gauteng), has been appointed to a senior position in MEGA, could the MEC indicate:

1) Does the MEC know that Mr Sibusiso Buthelezi and can the MEC confirm his appointment to any position at either MEGA or any other parastatal under the jurisdiction of the Department? If yes, to which position has the person been appointed, for what period, what will his responsibilities entail and what remuneration package will he receive?

Answer:

The Department has not appointed Mr Sibusiso Buthelezi to any position within MEGA or within any of the parastatals under its jurisdiction. Therefore, the follow up question for this question is irrelevant.

- 2) What is Mr Buthelezi's background, qualification and expertise that made him a suitable candidate to be appointed to the above position, and where did he work before he was appointed to this position?**

Answer:

The problem of people who always believe in hearsay is that they will always ask irrelevant questions. Honourable Member Benadie, I have said that we have **NOT** appointed Mr Buthelezi to any position within our parastatals, thus I would **NOT** know his background and so forth. Your question is therefore irrelevant.

- 3) Has Mr Buthelezi faced any charges or allegations of corruption, fraud, dishonesty, bribery or any other illegal/unethical or questionable conduct? If yes, please provide full details, the outcome thereto and any convictions or verdicts found against him?**

Answer:

Once again, the Honourable Benadie is insinuating that I know this Mr Buthelezi. How can you continue to ask me such questions when I already told you I do **NOT** know the person in question? Your questions continue to be irrelevant.

- 4) How many candidates were considered for the said position; who were they; and what are their qualifications and history?**

Answer:

Due to the fact that we have not appointed anyone to a senior position at MEGA recently, your question on the number of candidates also becomes irrelevant.