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**Ref: IQP 30**



23 September 2020

The Chairperson of the Legislature

Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature  
Independence Avenue  
**Bhisho**  
5605

Dear Mrs Mswana-Gwebushe

#### **RESPONSE TO THE LEGISLATURE QUESTIONS (IQP 30)**

This is to confirm receipt of the letter dated 18 September 2020 regarding the response to IQP 30.

Below is our response to the issues raised in the letter:

#### **706. Mr J Cowley to ask the MEC responsible for Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism:**

*Noting that posts for Law Enforcement and Compliance Officers and posts for Biodiversity Officers have allegedly already been approved by the Department of Environmental Affairs but these posts have reportedly not yet been filled:*

- (1) What is the current status in terms of vacant funded posts for (a) Enforcement and Compliance Officers and (b) Biodiversity Officers, per district, in the province;  
Please refer to the tables below.
- (2) What percentage of the posts above are vacant per each district;

#### **COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT**

<b>REGION</b>	<b>NO OF POSTS</b>	<b>FILLED</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>2020 ARP</b>	<b>% VACANT</b>	<b>% VACANT NET ARP</b>
ALFRED NZO DISTRICT	5	3	2	1	40%	20%
AMATHOLE DISTRICT	7	6	1	0	14%	14%
SARAH BAARTMAN DISTRICT	7	3	4	3	57%	14%
CHRIS HANI DISTRICT	5	3	2	1	40%	20%

REGION	NO OF POSTS	FILLED	VACANT	2020 ARP	% VACANT	% VACANT NET ARP
JOE GQABI DISTRICT	5	3	2	1	40%	20%
OR TAMBO DISTRICT	7	4	3	1	43%	29%
HEAD OFFICE	11	9	2	0	18%	18%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>19%</b>

<b>BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT</b>
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REGION	NO OF POSTS	FILLED	VACANT	2020 ARP	% VACANT	% VACANT NET ARP
ALFRED NZO DISTRICT	6	3	3	1	50%	33%
AMATHOLE DISTRICT	12	7	5	0	42%	42%
SARAH BAARTMAN DISTRICT	17	8	9	1	53%	47%
CHRIS HANI DISTRICT	8	3	5	1	63%	50%
JOE GQABI DISTRICT	5	4	1	0	20%	20%
OR TAMBO DISTRICT	8	6	2	2	25%	0%
HEAD OFFICE	12	7	5	0	42%	42%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>37%</b>

- (3) What immediate steps his Department anticipates will be taken with a view to ensuring that these posts are filled as a matter of urgency in order to mitigate against the unlawful activities taking place in the province, including (a) illegal hunting, (b) poaching of wild animals and (c) indigenous plants and marine species which are detrimental to the promotion of tourism in the province?

Whilst Compliance and Enforcement and Biodiversity Conservation and Coastal Zone Management have current vacancy rates of 34 and 44 percent respectively, a total of 12 posts have been approved on the departments 2020 Annual Recruitment Plan. Once these posts have been filled, the vacancy rate will be reduced to 19 and 37 percent respectively. Vacant posts in these areas were previously unfunded and the department was able to allocate approximately R6.1 million in the 2020/21 financial year to fill these critical posts. Of the 12 posts, 8 have been advertised and are in the recruitment process, with 4 posts still to be advertised.

Regards



**Mickey Mama (Ms)**

**HOD: DEDEAT**