



MINISTRY IN THE PRESIDENCY: WOMEN, YOUTH & PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER: 1081

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 25 MARCH 2022

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NUMBER 2021: 12 OF 2022

Ms T L Marawu (ATM) to ask the Minister in The Presidency of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities:

- (1) Whether she will account on the activities that her Office embarked on in 2021, which were aimed at assisting women empowerment projects in rural areas; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) what total number of beneficiaries have benefited from her Office's women empowerment initiatives for the fourth quarter of 2021;
- (3) what plans does her Office have in aiding women-run businesses affected by the lockdown for 2022? NW1330E

REPLY:

- (1) Yes, the Minister would account for activities embarked on in 2021 to support women economic empowerment in rural areas.
 - During August and September 2021, the department implemented an intervention to support the economic empowerment and participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities through the economic empowerment and business development radio talk shows. The radio talk shows were aired in the 11 official languages of the country and across various SABC commercial radio stations to ensure that information is accessed by people in rural and township areas in a language they are comfortable with. The information transmitted would equip WYPD to start up and register businesses, be tax compliant and subsequently be better equipped to do business with government through public procurement.



MINISTRY IN THE PRESIDENCY: WOMEN, YOUTH & PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

- During August 2021, the department implemented a capacity building workshop on Agriculture Value Chain Opportunities at KwaMhlanga in Mpumalanga. The workshop was aimed at strengthening rural representation of WYPD in agriculture value chains, improve rural farmer skills, information and knowledge with the ultimate goal of improving food security and decreasing rural poverty.
- (2) During the fourth quarter of 2021, the department hosted the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) awareness workshop targeted for WYPD. The purpose of the workshop was to raise awareness on AfCFTA and advocate for the inclusive mainstreaming of WYPD across its sectors. The objectives of the workshop were to strengthen the leadership and participation of WYPD as entrepreneurs and industry professionals, advance gender equality and integrate gender perspectives within the AfCFTA. The virtual workshop was attended by 107 participants.

Furthermore the department in collaboration with KZN provincial government implemented the Eastern Seaboard Smart City Development Imbizo Information Awareness Workshop. One of the objectives of the workshop includes ensuring that women entrepreneurs are actively involved at the design, planning and implementation phase of the Eastern Seaboard Development projects in KZN and Eastern Cape respectively and highlight economic opportunities available throughout the value chains to encourage and promote inclusive economic growth and participation.

The KZN leg of the Eastern Seaboard Information sharing Imbizo/Workshop held during the 4th quarter was attended by almost 1000 stakeholder representatives with the following breakdown: 60% (Women) 30% (Youth) and 10% (PWD's).

- (3) The department does not provide financial aid however it is in continuous engagements with DFI's to advocate for increased accessibility of funding for women owned enterprises. The Women Empowerment Fund is one of the key capital injection initiative and the department will closely monitor its accessibility.



MINISTRY IN THE PRESIDENCY: WOMEN, YOUTH & PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

In terms of assisting women run businesses, the department will provide non-financial support in terms of sharing relevant information, increasing awareness to economic opportunities and providing linkages to market opportunities. This would be through initiatives such as SheTradesSA, Eastern Seaboard Smart City Development, Sanitary Dignity Programme and etc. In its efforts towards accelerated initiatives that address women's unequal economic and social position, the following milestones have been achieved:

Furthermore, Women's Economic Assembly (WECONA) – was launched by the President on the 6 October 2021, a multi-stakeholder platform to activate the public and private sector value chain particularly on commitment and actions in terms of the 6 key industries (i.e. Energy, Agriculture and Agro-processing, Textiles, auto-motives, steel and Tourism). There has also been financial commitments made both by the public and private sectors as well as commitments related to the training of women specifically technical capacity building not just the generic training of running a business but industry specific training.

The next step under the leadership of the Department of Women, Youth & Persons with Disabilities working in collaboration with WECONA structures is to start working on the activation strategy which seeks to ensure that the women in these industries are also activated to benefit from some of these opportunities:

- The localization and decentralization strategy for WECONA is also under consideration.
- The WECONA team is also working on an institutional framework – to empower women in rural and urban economy.



Approved by Minister
Ms M Nkoana-Mashabane, MP
Date 11/04/2022