**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY:**

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**Mr M S F de Freitas (DA) to ask the Minister of Tourism:**

With reference to the SA National Parks and the training of tour guides by her department (a) in the past three financial years and (b) since 1 January 2022, (i) what total number of tour guides have completed their training in each province in each month, (ii) what (aa) total number of students started the course and did not complete the course and (bb) were their reasons for not completing the course and (iii)(aa) how are potential students identified and (bb) what criteria are used in this regard?

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**REPLY:**

| Training of Tourist Guides | (a) 2018-2019 |
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| 1. What total number of tour guides have completed their training in each province in each month. | **Kruger National Park Orientation**  January 2019  Mpumalanga (MP) – 20 guides  Limpopo (LP) – 3 guides  February 2019  MP – 14 guides  LP – 8 guides  **A total of 45 guides were trained.** |
| 1. (aa) What total number of students started the course and did not complete the course. | All participants that started the course completed it. |
| (ii) (bb) What were their reasons for not completing the course. | N/A |
| (iii) (aa) How are potential students identified. | Adverts were developed and circulated to guides from MP and LP (via the respective Provincial Registrars) to apply for the up-skilling opportunity. The advert was also distributed to guides that work in the Kruger National Park and this was done via SANParks. |
| (iii) (bb) What criteria are used in this regard | Applicants needed to be registered tourist guides with a minimum qualification or competency as a Nature Site Guide with Kruger National Park being listed as one of the areas of operation. Those with qualifications over and above the minimum requirements were also acceptable. |

No training of tourist guides was done with SANParks in the Financial Years of (a) 2019- 2020, 2020- 2021 and (b) since 1 January 2022 to date.

(i)- (iii) Not applicable