



# arts and culture

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Department:  
Arts and Culture  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

### FOR ORAL REPLY

### QUESTION 220

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 06 SEPTEMBER 2010:**

Mr P Ntshiqela (Cope) to ask the Minister of Arts and Culture:

**Whether her department has any arts programme in place to raise awareness of climate change and global warming; if not, why no', if so; what are the relevant details?**

**NO3149E**

### **REPLY:**

The Department has no programme which is specifically intended to address this matter. However, work that relates to certain genres of the craft sector has such relevance to the issue of climate change and global warming to the extent that practitioners are adopting proactive responses to the issues of global warming and climate change in the way they source materials for production and produce their crafts.

There is a growing appreciation of the importance of this issue in relation to concerns of climate change and global warming. Crafters have over the last few years become very conscientious about the need to preserve and adopt environmentally responsible and innovative practices in view of the climate change and global warming.

A crafter such as Ms Noria Mabasa, a renowned ceramist and sculptor, has permission to harvest wood in the local forest. This arrangement to control the levels of exploitation of our environment is necessary and important to artists about the necessary control in harvesting natural materials. Without this control the forests may be over harvested and threatened.

Many artists are starting to see the value of using recycled materials to produce this art works which has the benefits which include cleaning of the environment and creating earning opportunities

The Human Settlements Research report, we undertook in 2008/09 deals with enrichment of human settlements through arts, culture and heritage, and makes mention of the use of traditional building materials and designs that are eco-friendly, use renewable energy, have low emissions because they are from the harvested and immediate environment and in some cases are made from recycled materials.

These design elements include, but are not limited to, the use of thatched roof, use of alien wood in roofing; houses built with mud and grass houses; house elevation that allows for shelter against natural elements (wind; rains/flooding) and their passive exploitation of these, such light and heating with wood.

The Ubuhle-Bontle Beautification of Public Spaces Programme, encourages communities to not only paint , in beautifying their environments, but to also create recreational spaces/parks and creative spaces that can be used for planting of indigenous trees/plants. This should also include the use of recycled steel to make park sculptures and recycling of glass, plastic, metal, tins, ceramic tiles to make mosaics and use of eco-friendly paints.