

Jun 7 2012 8:50AM

GREEN ECONOMY CREATES JOBS



GOING GREEN: MEC Mamiki Qabathe, left, has challenged Sasol to develop a greener Sasolburg.

Minister of Environmental Affairs Edna Molewa said that the goal of a green economy was fundamental to the growth and development of the country.

Speaking during the launch of National Environment Month in Bloemfontein on Tuesday, Molewa said the green economy promised to create 300000 new jobs by 2020. She said that 26896 job opportunities were created through the green economy in the 2011-2012 financial year, with 10434 full time jobs created thus far, but plans to increase the number by 2020.

Molewa emphasised that achieving a green economy would not have been possible without a partnership with the private sector. She also said that “the environment would be under siege” if communities and industries did not do more and fight to protect it.

“The sooner we change behaviour, the better and more able we are to reverse the situation,” she said.

She said industrial companies had the ability to participate in the green economy and told Sasol representatives their company needed to be part of the movement. She said Sasol had a lack of participation in creating a healthy environment and they should do more, rather than being just a producer of chemicals.

This statement was supported by MEC of economic development, tourism and environmental affairs, Mamiki Qabathe, who said that Sasol should develop Sasolburg, the town where the company was formed.

“You have to go back to Sasolburg and ensure that communities in the area receive the necessary support and that the environmental impacts are managed,”

Meanwhile, R800m was allocated by the national treasury to specifically fund the Green Fund and, according to Molewa, the money will be spent over the next two years to ensure more jobs are created.

“We will utilise this funding in a manner that seeks to attract new and additional investments, stimulate job creation and lay the foundation for South Africa’s transition to a low carbon, job creating and resource efficient

[Source: www.thenewage.co.za]