

'Ocean economy' can create 800,000 jobs

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South Africa's ocean economy - which includes fishing and ship repairs and services - has the potential to create between 800,000 and one million direct jobs through Operation Phakisa Communication Minister Faith Muthambi



Communications Minister Faith Muthambi claims that at least 800,000 jobs can be created from South Africa's 'ocean economy' that includes fishing and marine services. Image: GQS

Briefing the media following Cabinet's regular meeting, Muthambi said the executive had welcomed the launch of Operation Phakisa, which is set to contribute up to R177bn to the country's GDP by the year 2033.

Operation Phakisa is aimed at fast-tracking the delivery of the priorities outlined in the National Development Plan (NDP), which is the country's blueprint for eliminating poverty and reducing inequality.

Muthambi said the Department of Environmental Affairs will lead collaboration with the industry, labour, civil society and academia to unlock the economic potential of the country's oceans.

"The shipping industry has the potential to create between 800,000 and one million direct jobs. These growth levers reflect at least 4% annual growth in both Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and job creation.

"In 2010, the ocean economy contributed about R54bn to South Africa's GDP, and accounted for about 316,000 jobs," said Muthambi.

She added that marine aquaculture, marine transport, offshore oil and gas exploration and marine protection have been

identified as focus areas for further development.

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