



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES:**

**QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY:**

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**Mr A Arnolds (Western Cape: EFF) to ask the Minister of Tourism:**

*Assistance to Tourist Guides*

Whether her department has any plans to assist tour guides during this difficult time of the lockdown; if not, why not; if so, (a) what plans and (b) what are the further relevant details? CW/CO158E

**REPLY:**

(a) Tourist guides had expressed their plight when they met with the Minister of Tourism last year, 2020. Amongst them, there are many who operate independently as freelancers with no job security and have no other source of income as a result of the COVID19 pandemic and associated lockdowns. Their only source of income is provision of services to international and domestic tourists.

In response, the department established a Tourist Guide Relief Fund with a R30 million allocation. The funds was paid out in three monthly installments of an amount of R1500 per qualifying tourist guide. The eligibility and qualifying criteria was for freelancers, registered on the tourist guide registration database in their respective provinces and also not registered with Unemployment Insurance Fund or claimed Temporary Employee Relief Scheme (TERS). To date, a total of 4415 tourist guides benefited from the fund. Some tourist guides had delayed in redeeming their payments, the department reached out to them and they have been afforded the opportunity to do so until the end of March 2021.

- (b) Under level 1 of the Adjusted Risk Strategy, tourism activities are open and tourist guides can conduct their business. Due to budgetary constraints, there will be no further financial assistance for tourist guides. However, non-financial support is provided in that 20 tourist guides will complete the mandarin language training before the end of this financial year. The Department will work with provinces to provide training to tourist guides to ensure that tourist guiding activities happen in a safe manner and that tourist guides are supported in line with domestic tourism market activation and the global marketing strategy.