



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES:**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY:**

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**Ms H S Boshoff (Mpumalanga: DA) to ask the Minister of Tourism:**

(a) What steps have been taken to ensure the survival of the tourism industry which has been one of the industries that have been hardest hit by the irrational lockdown regulations and which contributes significantly to economic growth and employment (details furnished) and (b) what actions have been taken to encourage international travel to our shores? CWCO170E

**REPLY:**

(a) Firstly, let me dispel the notion that pursuing a risk adjusted strategy based on science and backed by regulations in terms of the disaster management Act is irrational. Furthermore, the the Department of Tourism will be the first to admit that the sector has been the most affected by the pandemic.

Countries globally, including our source markets from Asia, Europe, the Americas etc, have introduced travel restrictions and lockdowns of their own, some even isolating South Africa following the discovery of COVID19 variant, the 501Y.V2 in the country.

Parts of sector managed to open throughout the levels of the risk adjusted strategy and in some instances earlier than originally expected. However, without certainty and stability in the market due the continued spread of the virus, business have not been able to operate optimal and adjustment in market focus had to be made from mainly international to domestic.

Department of Tourism introduced relief measures to protect the supply side of the sector, these include the Tourism Relief Fund, Relief for Tourist Guides and the waiver of grading fees. In addition to the latter the sector could also apply for the government wide relief measures such as TERS.

To guide the recovery of the tourism sector moving forward we, public and private sector together, have developed the Tourism Sector Recovery Plan as a road map for recovery. The Plan acknowledges the need for targeted, coordinated action to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic and sets the sector on the most optimal path to recovery, transformation and long-term sustainability. The Plan outlines a set of interventions to ignite the recovery anchored on three strategic themes namely: protecting and rejuvenating supply, re-igniting demand and strengthening enabling capability for long term sustainability.

- (b) Noting the travel restrictions and lockdowns introduced by countries globally, including countries that form part of our key source markets, efforts are currently underway to reposition South Africa's brand in light of these developments while domestic tourism is being strengthened to ensure that it supports the sustenance of the supply base including preservation of jobs.

While the pandemic had a devastating impact on South Africa and the tourism sector in particular it is important to remember that it is a global pandemic and as such discussions e.g. on response plans, are ongoing in global forums such as the G20, UNWTO, IATA, WTTC etc