



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

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Mr Z J Peter (ANC) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

How is her department working with other departments to ensure the smooth recovery of the tourism sector and the tourism economy?

NO1555E

REPLY:

The collaborative process is driven from different levels including meeting with my fellow colleagues from sister Departments. The process culminates in discussions at Cluster meetings, NATJOINTS and the NCCC.

More directly, and to have a more coordinated recovery, we are in constant discussions with all the other departments that have a direct impact on tourism such Department of Home Affairs (DHA), Department of Transport (DOT), Department of Environmental, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF), etc. As the sector began to open in accordance with the risk adjusted strategy, tourism activities have been complemented by associated activities. When public and private game farms were opened for self-drive excursions, DEFF opened up hunting; when we opened up accommodation for business travelers it was complimented by the opening up of domestic flights and long distance interprovincial travel by DOT. Rental companies were also opened up which are critical in facilitating mobility that is integral to tourism activities. This coordinated and interdepartmental approach will ensure the tourism sector recovers smoothly and until such time that we are ready to open our borders for inbound and outbound travel which will be coordinated with DHA.

Tourism took a serious strain over this crisis period and it will take a bit of time for economic activities to recover to full capacity in the short term. However, we believe by opening up the various subsectors, in coordination with the related departments, will breathe new life into tourism sector and its economy. Restaurants, accommodation facilities, game farms and Casinos will soon be trading with increased capacity which significantly contribute to the economic recovery of the tourism sector. Going forward, the tourism economy will be on an upward trajectory until full recovery.