



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Private Bag X424, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa. Tel. (+27 12) 444 6780, Fax (+27 12) 444 7027
Private Bag X9154, Cape Town, 8000, South Africa. Tel. (+27 21) 469 5800, Fax: (+27 21) 465 3216

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY:

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Mr M S F de Freitas (DA) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

(a) On what empirical evidence and research did her department rely to determine that the domestic tourism season is likely to start in December 2020 and (b) what steps will her department take to ensure that the tourism sector is able to retain existing jobs and mitigate large-scale job losses in the sector until December 2020?

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REPLY:

(a) On what empirical evidence and research did the department rely to determine that the domestic tourism season is likely to start in December 2020.

South Africa is following a Risk-Adjusted Strategy based on levels of lockdown, not dates. These levels are defined by relevant epidemiology and are announced by the President. The priority is therefore to resume operations as early as it is safe to do so, for South Africa and its visitors. In early April as part of the industry engagement process, a series of Webinars were held with the sector, it included exploring a set of scenarios (high, medium and low road) were developed based on several epidemiological factors in South Africa and its source markets. The potential for domestic re-opening in December 2020, was a potential outcome of the 'middle road' scenario, one of three that were explored. This was the product of a collaborative, high-intensity effort by key tourism stakeholders from both government and the private sector. The scenarios were stress-tested against industry consultations, primary surveys, external sources, international benchmarks and other similar models.

To properly baseline the pandemic's impact on South Africa's tourism sector, a modified dynamic input-output table was used to model the effect of exogenous changes in tourism spending on final demand. The analysis approximates COVID-19 impact on tourism at the subsector level and enables estimation of income and employment levels based on proposed interventions. The model uses, amongst others, a Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) for South Africa and the Domestic Tourism Survey data to develop a coefficient matrix for domestic and inbound markets, split across the major subsectors as specified in the TSA. Supply and

demand input variables enable the impact on projected revenue under various scenarios to be assessed.

(b) What steps will the department take to ensure that the tourism sector is able to retain existing jobs and mitigate large-scale job losses in the sector until December 2020.

To mitigate the risks of the pandemic the tourism sector developed a set of protocols with the aim of de-risking the different sub-sectors. The latter together with the recognition of the importance of the tourism sector resulted in certain sub-sectors of the tourism sector opening under levels 3 and 4. Whilst we are working on the re-opening of the sector one should not lose focus on the health risk of the pandemic.

To support the tourism sector during this difficult time the Department of Tourism introduced a number of interventions. These include:

1. Tourism Relief Fund
2. Support for freelance Tourist Guides
3. UIF – Processing of UIF claims for the sector through the TBCSA.
4. Quarantine and Isolation Accommodation establishments: The latter ensured that some accommodation establishments remained opened throughout the different levels of lockdown.