



**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 was her department Strategy and Recovery Plan based and (b) how will the plan ensure that the tourism supply chain survives until December 2020? NO1586E

**REPLY:**

- (a) The recovery plan was the product of a collaborative, high-intensity effort by key tourism stakeholders from both government and the private sector during April and May 2020. The analysis was stress-tested against industry consultations, primary surveys, external sources, international benchmarks and other similar models.
- Ten webinars were held by various organisations to enable the industry's viewpoints to be heard.
  - More than 60 external sources were consulted to gain an understanding of the tourism impact of COVID-19 and to determine the economic and industry projections associated with the crisis. 60 sources on industry benchmarks and recovery best practices were considered in the solution framework.
  - Four focused surveys were conducted to incorporate key points and recommendations. NDT, TBCSA and the IFC developed the Tourism Industry Survey where
    - more than 400 SMMEs were surveyed. SAT and TBCSA invited industry to submit recommendations for recovery strategy and received
    - 1,970 responses and TBCSA conducted two specific surveys to establish survivability of businesses and
    - received about 4,000 respondents.

- (b) It should be noted that South Africa is following a Risk-Adjusted Strategy based on levels of lockdown, not dates. These levels are defined according to relevant epidemiologic facts and are announced by the President.

When the risk-adjusted strategy was initially introduced in April, the tourism sector was placed at alert level 1 with some operations permissible at alert level 2. However, over the last few weeks, a lot of consultative work and focus has been placed on both de-risking the sector and putting health & operational protocols in place for the safety of all tourists and employees. These have been benchmarked against measures being rolled out globally.

Following industry-wide engagements, there has been a commitment by the South African government, led by President Ramaphosa and the private sector, to work towards a phased reopening of the sector, starting at Level 3. This led to the recent address to the nation by President Ramaphosa announcing that the alert level for the whole country will be lowered from Level 4 to Level 3, with effect from 01 June 2020. As a result, the domestic tourism was opened for business travel and other limited activities, with partial domestic air travel for business purposes allowed.

In his latest address on 17 June 2020, the President announced that the cabinet decided to ease restrictions on certain economic activities to operate with strict health protocols in place. The activities include commercially licenced accommodation, conferences for work purposes, restaurants for sit-down meals, cinemas, theatre's casino and non-contact sports including Golf.

