



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES:

QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY:

Question Number: 42

Date of Publication: 8 March 2021

NCOP IQP Number: 8

Date of reply: 17 March 2021

Ms M L Moshodi (Free State: ANC) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

Plans for crime-free Table Mountain

Whether, as a country that boast tourism as the key to economic reconstruction and job creation, there are any plans between her department, the Western Cape Provincial Government, the Cape Town City Council and other sector departments to turn Table Mountain and other tourist centres into crime-free areas (details furnished); if not, why not; if so, (a) what plans and (b) what are the further relevant details?

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REPLY:

(a)The department has over the past two years worked with various SAPS, provinces and tourism association to develop the Tourism Safety Strategy. The strategy is a guiding document in the management of tourists safety, and one of its main objectives is to ensure an intergrated approach in the country's response to issues related to tourist safety. The strategy is divided into three thematic areas viz, a) pro-active measures that involve initiatives to minimise the risks of a tourist becoming a target b) Reactive measures – those initiatives that respond to situations at a time of a crisis and c) after care programme – measures to ensure victim support.

One of the initiatives under the pro-active measures is the Tourism Monitors programme. This programme entails the recruitment, training and deployment of young people in key tourist

attractions, to assist tourists with tourism and safety related information. The department has also signed an MoU with South African Police Services and part of the collaboration entails issues related the training of the Tourism Monitors on Safety and Security, ensure visible policing in key tourist attractions through the call up programme for Police reservists especially during the festive seasons.

(b) With regards to Table Mountain National Park, the Department of Tourism has signed a contract with the South African National Parks where a total of 302 Tourism Monitors have been placed in the various parks around the country. Of these, about 100 Tourism Monitors have been placed at the Table Mountain National park. The deployment followed crime incident that involved a tourist at the mountain to which Minister working Minister of Environment, Fisheries and Forestry, Minister Creecy swiftly responded.

The department has been working with the various provincial departments, in the implementation of this programme. Within the Western Cape, the identification of key attractions where the Tourism Monitors were placed was done in consultation with the Western Cape Tourism Department and City of Cape Town officials in relation to sites around the city. These officials also form part of the Project Advisory Committee meetings where on a quarterly basis, meetings are held to discuss and share information on the implementation of the safety programme and reporting and this approach is not exclusive to the Western Cape but standardised across all other provinces.