



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:**

**QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY:**

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**Inkosi R B Cebekhulu (IFP) to ask the Minister of Tourism:**

In light of the fact that cruise ships offer South African Ports and tourism opportunities to earn significant amounts on foreign revenue and can provide a significant employment potential, why does his department not ensure that cruise operators are more involved in Tourism Indabas and launches?

**NO3961E**

**REPLY:**

There are many tourism niches that are growing around the world and present opportunities for the development of the South African tourism industry. While the cruise tourism segment does contribute to our economy, our analysis suggests that the economic impact of cruise ships docking at local ports is limited. Most of the cruise ships docking in South African ports are owned and operated by foreign companies. Revenue inflow to our country is related largely to harbour fees, as cruise ships take on very limited supplies, and local expenditure by passengers is also limited. While some coastal provinces are pursuing this niche based on their provincial circumstances, overall South Africans are involved mainly as consumers of cruise trips and their expenditure on these trips does not accrue to South Africa.

For these reasons the Department of Tourism believes that the resources we have available for tourism development can be applied more effectively to develop niches that offer the potential for greater economic impact on a national scale, like cultural and heritage tourism, adventure tourism and youth travel.

Furthermore, the Department is currently focusing on significantly improving and strengthening the country's domestic tourism strategy and marketing plan. Robust and growing domestic tourism industries are therefore the backbone of all leading global tourism destinations. Building a vibrant domestic tourism culture is a key aspect of destination success and an area of priority focus.