



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY:

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“57. MR J VOS (DA) TO ASK THE MINISTER OF TOURISM:

- (1) Has his department taken any steps to mitigate the effects of the new immigration regulations on the tourism industry; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) has his department engaged with (a) the Tourism Business Council of South Africa, (b) the SA Tourism Services Association and (c) SA Tourism to find ways to reduce the impact of the new immigration regulations; if not, why not; if so; what are the relevant details?”

NW63E

REPLY:

- (1) The regulation of immigration matters is the constitutional responsibility of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). However, the National Department of Tourism (NDT) has received representations from tourism stakeholders on what they perceive as unintended consequences of some of the new provisions. The NDT is currently studying these stakeholder concerns (e.g. tourism competitiveness impacts, practicality of implementation), in particular those related to the implementation of Regulation 6(12) as well as the collection of biometric data. Once all the facts are ascertained, and if needed, further engagement with DHA to mitigate unintended consequences may follow.

- (2) (a) (b) (c) The Tourism Business Council of South Africa and the South African Tourism Services Association are important industry stakeholder bodies in the tourism sector. South African Tourism is government's tourism destination marketing arm. The NDT engages with these bodies on an ongoing basis, and the Minister has met with all three bodies as part of his introduction to his new portfolio. During the latter meetings, concerns related to the new immigration regulations were raised. As it stands, the dialogue with tourism stakeholders to clarify and try to address their concerns is of an ongoing nature.