



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY:

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Mr J Vos (DA) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

- (1) Has the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa (TGCSA) considered funding from the new Tourism Incentive Programme (TIP) in setting targets for the period 2015 to 2020; if so, what is the growth in such targets;
- (2) Does the TGCSA consider making legislative review proposals to make grading compulsory and capitalise on the grading assistance from TIP, given the new TIP scheme; if so, what are the relevant details of the proposed changes;
- (3) Why will the TGCSA only introduce new categories of grading in the third year of the current Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, given the fact that the new TIP can assist with funding;
- (4) What is the current institutional capacity of the TGCSA, given the fact that the Chief Quality Assurance Officer has resigned;
- (5) Has the TGCSA started a process of recruiting the new chief quality assurance officer; if so, what are the relevant details.

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REPLY:

- (1) No, the 2015 – 2020 targets for the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa (TGCSA) were approved by the Minister in February 2015, in line with SA Tourism's business planning cycle, before the TIP was approved and launched. However, the TGCSA will consider the implications of the TIP programme during its 2016/17 business planning cycle.

- (2) No, the TGCSA has no intention of submitting any proposals to make grading compulsory. The TGCSA Strategy approved by the Board in August 2014 still assumes a voluntary grading system.
- (3) The TGCSA's focus in the next 2 years is on implementing its current strategy – some elements of which are not yet funded. Concurrently, the TGCSA will assess the implications of additional categories as outlined in the Tourism Act, Act No. 3 of 2014, in consultation with the National Department of Tourism.
- (4) The TGCSA institutional capacity remains strong as the Acting Chief Quality Assurance Officer (CQAO) has been appointed while the recruitment process is underway. To support the Acting CQAO, the following TGCSA governance, management and sales structures remain active i.e. the quarterly Awards Committee chaired by the member of the SA Tourism Board, the monthly Property Approval Committee for property approvals, and the Implementation Committee and assessors.
- (5) Yes, recruitment commenced on 02 April 2015 and applications closed on the 14th of April 2015. Preliminary interviews are scheduled for 13 May 2015 and it is envisaged that the process will be concluded by end of May 2015.