

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER: 166 (NO1559E)

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**Mr M R Sayedali Shah (DA) to ask the Minister of Tourism:**

What is he doing to ensure that municipalities budget for (a) tourism development and promotion and (b) maintenance of tourism infrastructure? NO1559E

**Reply by Minister of Tourism**

- (a) The Department engages through workshops and other fora where the importance of allocating budget for tourism development and promotion and maintenance of tourism infrastructure is emphasized. The department facilitated the development of a Tourism Budget Programme Structure in partnership with National Treasury and Provincial Tourism Departments. The exercise entailed the identification of core tourism focus areas/programme to be pursued by provinces. The focus areas were taken from the NTSS. Provinces will then budget for the identified core focus areas.
- (b) The Department is in the process of rolling out the Capacity Building Programme. This is partly intended to create better understanding of tourism and its benefits at local level, thereby making it easy for municipalities to see value and allocate budget for tourism. In relation to that, the pilot project has been implemented to train municipal officials in areas like research, planning and policy etc. Moreover, the department has awareness creation sessions on the importance and benefits of tourism with municipalities. These included the rolling out of tourism toolkit for local government, which outlined typical tourism infrastructure that municipalities ought to maintain.