



MINISTER
TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY:

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1671. Mr C Matiwane (EFF) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

(1) Whether her department intends to invest R200 million in the incomplete Water World Fun Park in the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what due diligence was done on the project to check if it is commercially viable and financially sustainable and (b) how did her department come up with the price of R200 million, given that the municipality had said that only R40 million is needed to complete the project; (2) whether it makes business sense to invest in a project that has been tagged by the (a) Auditor-General for a material irregularity and (b) Special Investigating Unit for possible corruption as the project costing is alleged to have been inflated; if not, what is the position in each case; if so, what are the relevant details in each case? NW1878E

REPLY

(1) The asset (i.e. Water World Fun Park) is owned by the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality. No, the Department of Tourism does not intend to invest R200 million into the project. The Department of Tourism is providing the tourism

investment promotion support to the project, and other prioritised projects through investment mobilisation efforts.

(a) The Department of Tourism sent out a Call for Projects in May 2025, in preparation for the Tourism Investment Summit, to all Provinces, Metropolitan Municipalities, as well as Private sector through the Tourism Business Council of South African (TBCSA). These projects are assessed through Project Evaluation Committee (PEC) as part of the due diligence process to determine commercial viability, financial sustainability, and socio-economic impact.

(b) The Department of Tourism does not determine the value of individual projects. As part of the information request, project values and the associated funding gaps must be provided by project promoter/owners. This information and data is essential for engaging with potential investors, as it is a standard requirement to clearly indicate the level of investment required for each specific project.

(2) (a) and (b). The Water World Fun Park is an asset of the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality. The Department of Tourism is providing the tourism investment promotion support to the project through investment mobilisation efforts.

END