



**MINISTER  
TOURISM  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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## **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY:**

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#### **344. Ms H Ismail (DA) to ask the Minister of Tourism:**

- (1) Whether, with regard to travel undertaken by her and officials in her department and SA Tourism (SAT), the private sector is consulted prior to the visit to get an understanding of barriers and opportunities; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether, following a visit, insights are shared with the private sector; if not, why not; if so, (a) how and (b) what are the relevant details;
- (3) where trips are taken where there is no SAT presence, how is the private sector involved, given that the mandate of SAT is to aid private sector tourism businesses;
- (4) whether she addresses any barriers related to visa processing in the countries she visits during such a visit; if not, why not; if so,
- (5) whether her department and/or Ministry formulate any post-visit action plans about barriers related to visa processing in the countries she visited; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

NW360E

### **REPLY:**

- (1) When hosting the Outreach Programme in terms of the Department's Annual Performance Plan to prioritise source markets, I led a multi-departmental delegation. Various stakeholders are consulted and invited to participate in the Outreach Programme; these include the Tourism Business Council of South Africa

(TBCSA), South African Tourism, South African Airways, Department of Home Affairs, South African National Parks, Airports Company South Africa, etc. I write to my fellow Ministers in Cabinet to identify the best-suited person to participate in these outreach efforts. Similarly, I also write to industry bodies like TBCSA to approach their members to participate in the programmes.

Beyond the Outreach Programme, as the Minister of Tourism, I regularly engage with and consult the private sector and industry associations on various issues. These issues are also identified through the Tourism Growth Partnership Plan (TGPP) working groups, which include representatives from both the public and private sectors. It is through such engagements that the Minister is further informed about barriers and opportunities within the sector.

In all selected markets, the Outreach Programme is conducted to present opportunities in the sector and to address tourism-related barriers, such as visa challenges, by promoting the newly launched Electronic Travel Authorisation & Trusted Tour Operator Scheme. The Minister of Tourism also engages with various airlines, supported by South African Airways, to unlock airlift opportunities.

- (2) Yes, insights are shared with the private sector through, e.g. South African Tourism, as they regularly engage and interface with the private sector. Moreover, the Minister also shares insights with the private sector through regular interactions aligned to the TGPP.
- (3) Minister's Outreach Programme are conducted in collaboration with South African Tourism and the private sector.
- (4) Visa facilitation is at the centre of the Outreach Programme, as such, the Department of Home Affairs is always invited to participate, and thus far DHA has graciously honoured all Ministers' invitations. During the recent Outreach Programme in Southeast Asia, DHA promoted the Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) and other relevant visa options, including the Nomad visa.
- (5) Yes, follow-up actions are formulated after each visit. These actions are also contained in the Minister's travel report submitted to the President after each international travel.

**END**