



**MINISTER  
TOURISM  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Private Bag X 424, PRETORIA, 0001, Tourism House, 17 Trevenna Street, Sunnyside, PRETORIA, 0002, Switchboard: +27 (0)12 444 6000, Fax: +27 (0)12 444 7000, Website: www.tourism.gov.za

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY:**

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**3688. Ms N R Mashabela (EFF) to ask the Minister of Tourism:**

What (a) impact has the introduction of the new visa regime had on tourist arrivals from the affected countries, (b) increase has been recorded in tourism-related (i) enquiries, (ii) bookings and (iii) visa applications from affected countries and (c) assessment has her department made of the effectiveness of the visa reforms in growing the tourism sector of the Republic? NW3900E

**REPLY**

- (a) The Department of Home Affairs has introduced two key programmes aimed at improving visa processing and enhancing ease of access for international tourists to South Africa, namely the Trusted Tour Operator Scheme (TTOS) and the Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA).

**The Trusted Tour Operator Scheme (TTOS)**

The Trusted Tour Operator Scheme (TTOS) was launched on 12 February 2025 and initially targeted the Chinese and Indian markets. Data from the Department of Home Affairs indicates that approximately 31,792 additional tourists were brought through the TTOS programme within the first six months. The Programme has been expanded to include 110 operators.

**The Electronic Travel Authorisation**

The Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) was launched on 29 October 2025 as part of South Africa's broader digital visa reform programme. The ETA system is designed to simplify and modernise visa processing and is available to travellers from selected countries, including China, India, Indonesia and Mexico. Tourist arrivals' data for these countries for the months October-December 2025 and Jan-April 2026 is provided in the table below. As the ETA system is still in the early stages of implementation, a longer period of data collection and analysis will be required before a comprehensive assessment of its impact on tourist arrivals from participating countries can be made.

- (b) As of February 2025, the TTOS programmes have processed 58,460 visa applications. Between 29 October 2025 and 31 January 2026, the ETA platform received 88,033 applications.
- (c) The Department of Tourism will continue monitoring the ETA and TTOS through the Ease of Access Working Group of the Tourism Growth Partnership Plan 2025-2030. The committee is responsible for monitoring the rollout of the programmes, impact on tourist arrivals and unblocking challenges where necessary.

**END**