MINISTER
TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY:

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5679. Ms N R Mashabela (EFF) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

(1) With reference to the recurring cases of fruitless and wasteful expenditure to the value of R184 000, which represents an avoidable loss of public funds and an incapacity to manage travel planning, bookings controls and oversight, what (a) intervention plans have been put in place to curb the specified recurring annual pattern of fruitless and wasteful expenditure and (b) consequence management has been implemented with regard to offending officials;

(2) whether the consequence management system of her department needs to be strengthened, especially in the context of officials found liable in cases of fruitless or irregular expenditure; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY

(1)(a) The R184 000 fruitless and wasteful expenditure recorded in the 2025/26 financial year Annual Report resulted from a backlog of cases from previous financial years that could not be resolved by year-end due to capacity constraints. The previous financial years' cases have since been significantly reduced. The department has an approved Travel Policy that guides travel bookings.

(1)(b) Where officials are found not to have complied with the Travel Policy, the departmental Financial Misconduct Committee adjudicates the invoice together

with the traveller's representation letter and other relevant supporting documents. The committee's outcome is implemented; it may be recovery, write-off, or valid expenditure. In some cases, the outcome is disputed; in that case, the appeals committee reviews the Financial Misconduct Committee's decision, and its decision is final.

(2) The consequence management system does not require strengthening as the existing mechanisms are in place, including the recovery of costs from employees and issuing of written warnings where appropriate. However, the focus remains on continuous policy advocacy, awareness creation and communication to promote compliance with the Travel Management policy and the need to avoid fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

END