



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY:

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“Mr J H Steenhuisen (DA) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

- (1) With reference to the presentation by his department made to the Portfolio Committee on Tourism on 24 October 2014, wherein information relating to the development of a policy on e-visas was delayed, can he confirm that this policy is currently being developed; if not,
- (2) can he provide the relevant details on what his department’s policy position is with regard to e-visas?”

NW2993E

REPLY:

- (1) Given the globally evolving trends in respect of travel facilitation and visa processing, the department is looking at international best practises and alternatives to reduce travel barriers. Indications are that more countries are beginning to adopt e-visas as one of a basket of measures to facilitate international travel. Consistent with the G20 Heads of State and Government declaration in Los Cabos, Mexico, in 2012, in which South Africa committed to the following: “We recognize the role of travel and tourism as a vehicle for job creation, economic growth and development, and, while recognizing the sovereign right of States to control the entry of foreign nationals, we will work towards developing travel facilitation initiatives in support of job creation, quality work, poverty reduction and global growth”, the NDT will not develop a policy on e-visas, but will use the information obtained to inform future discussions with respect to travel facilitation.
- (2) Falls away.