

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 2436

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 29

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Mr S B Farrow (DA) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

- (1) Whether the SA Tourism statistics derived from arrivals and departures at the international airports and borders reflect the tourist's (a) length of stay in South Africa, (b) local destination in terms of (i) province, (ii) city and (iii) town being visited, (c) origin, (d) final destination and (e) return date; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether the statistics reflect the tourist's status as being a (a) casual visitor, (b) shopper and/or (c) contract worker (i) entering or (ii) leaving the country; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether the current statistics provided to his department by SA Tourism accurately reflect the number of tourists (a) visiting and (b) staying in our country compared to the low occupancy rates being recorded at our hotels and resorts; if not, what plans are in place to correct the current distortion in the collection of tourist (i) arrivals and (ii) departures at the ports of entry; if so, what are the relevant details?

NW3036E

**MR S B FARROW (DA)
SECRETARY TO PARLIAMENT
HANSARD
PAPERS OFFICE
PRESS**

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM ANSWERS:

(1) Whether the SA Tourism statistics derived from arrivals and departures at the international airports and borders reflect the tourist's

(a) length of stay in South Africa, **Yes**

(b) local destination in terms of

(i) province **Yes**

(ii) city **Yes** and

(iii) town being visited, **Yes**

(c) origin, **Yes**

(d) final destination **Yes**

(e) return date; **Yes**

if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether the statistics reflect the tourist's status as being a

(a) casual visitor, **No**

(b) shopper and/or **Yes**

(c) contract worker **Yes**

(i) entering or **No**

(ii) leaving the country; **Yes**

if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;

SAT's statistics does not reflect a tourist's status as being a casual visitor because there is no definition of what a "casual visitor" is.

SAT's statistics does not reflect a tourist's status as being a contract worker upon entering the country because it makes more sense to ask this question upon the departure of the person from South Africa. The reason for that is that we want to determine in what activities this person were involved while in South Africa and this person can only adequately respond to this question upon his/her departure.

SAT is collecting data in numerous categories indicated on the Departure Survey that it uses.

SAT methodology of using the Departure Survey and extrapolating the data captured to statistics has been endorsed by Stats SA. Statistics produced by SAT in this regard is used by Stats SA in the Tourism Satellite Accounts of South Africa produced by Stats SA.

(3) whether the current statistics provided to his department by SA Tourism accurately reflect the number of tourists

(a) visiting **YES** and

(b) staying in our country compared to the low occupancy rates being recorded at our hotels and resorts; **No. Occupancy rates are reported separately by STATS SA.**

if not, what plans are in place to correct the current distortion in the collection of tourist

(i) arrivals and

(ii) Departures at ports of entry;

There are currently no distortions in SA Tourism data collected.

if so, what are the relevant details?