



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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Ref: TM 2/1/1/10

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES:**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY:**

**Question Number:** 189  
**Date of Publication:** 19 October 2015  
**NA IQP Number:** 37  
**Date of Reply:** 27 October 2015

**Mr B G Nthebe (North West: ANC) to ask the Minister of Tourism:**

- (1) Whether he will provide details on the current performance of tourism in relation to its targets of (a) being one of the 20 top destinations in the world by 2020, (b) job creation and (c) contributing to the country's economy (details furnished) ; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) what are the effects of the new visa regulation with regard to tourism in the country?

**CO593E**

**REPLY:**

(1) (a)

The National Tourism Sector Strategy (NTSS) which set out the vision of South Africa becoming one of the 20 top destinations in the world, is currently being reviewed. This review will ensure that we continuously adapt to the evolving global environment in pursuit of inclusive, sustainable growth.

It is possible that the vision itself may be reviewed, as the vision drives the aspirations and efforts of the tourism sector. It challenges us to attain our desired positioning in

the global tourism community. However, our vision cannot be driven only by the number of tourist arrivals alone. It must be measured by everything that we do as a country in pursuit of excellence in tourism. Providing world class experiences to our visitors and maintaining a positive brand presence in the market are critically important. In our endeavors to be amongst the best global destinations.

### **Job creation and contribution to the economy**

#### **b. Job creation:**

With respect to job creation, according to the Tourism Satellite Account released by StatsSA, the direct number of jobs in tourism during 2010 was 567 000. The WTTC 2015 estimates that this number went up to 679 000 in 2014, which represents growth of approximately 112 000 jobs.

The WTTC also estimates that the total number of direct and indirect jobs created through tourism went up from 1.3 million during 2010 to almost 1.5 million jobs during 2014, which is a difference of 192 600. Using both indicators, it is clear that the sector is on track to achieve 225 000 new jobs by 2020.

#### **c. Contributing to the country's economy**

The target for the direct contribution of tourism to GDP in 2020 is R 188 billion, as indicated in the NTSS. According to the Tourism Satellite Account the direct contribution of tourism to GDP during 2010 was R69,3 billion. WTTC 2015 estimates that this contribution went up to about R113 billion in 2014.

The NTSS target for the direct and indirect contribution of tourism to GDP is R499 billion in 2020. WTTC 2015 estimates that the total contribution (direct and indirect) to GDP went up from R 243 billion in 2010 to about R357 billion in 2014.

Therefore, if this rate of growth can be maintained, the tourism sector is on track to achieve both targets set for the contribution of tourism to GDP by 2020.

- (2) What are the effects of the new visa regulation with regard to tourism in the country?

The impact has been a decline in the number of tourists to our country. This was related to the requirement of in-person visa application, which was a challenge for markets such as India and China, due to their geographic size relative to the spread of our missions, as well as the requirement of an unabridged birth certificate when travelling with a minor.

Honourable members would be aware that on Friday, 23 October 2015, Cabinet released a statement With regard to Cabinet's resolution on the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Committee that was tasked by President Zuma to find a balance between national security interest and the economic imperatives of the country. Honourable members, we have found this balance and we believe that the implementation of the Cabinet resolution will benefit both the national security interests and the growth of tourism in the medium to long term.

The specific measures announced in the Cabinet statement include the following:

- Accredited Travel Companies will be able to lodge visa applications on behalf their clients in countries like China, India and Russia, meaning that tourists will no longer have to apply in person for visas in those countries. The Department of Tourism will assist in compiling a list of these companies.
- In countries where there are no SA Missions DHA will allow postal applications.
- The DHA will, in the next three months, implement the capturing of biometrics (including fingerprints and photographs) at ports of entry, starting with a pilot at OR Tambo, King Shaka and Cape Town International Airports.
- The DHA will also continue issuing long-term multiple entry visas to certain categories of frequent travelers.
- Minors, or adults travelling with minors from visa exempt countries (which are by far our largest source markets for tourism), will no longer be required to carry Unabridged Birth Certificates or other related documents with them. Instead, they will be strongly advised to carry with them proof of the relationship and letters of consent from the absent parent/s or guardian/s.

- In respect of minors travelling from countries where visas are required, the provision of birth certificates and other relevant documentation will still be required in the visa application process.

The Department of Tourism will be working with the Department of Home Affairs to implement the Cabinet resolutions that emerged from the work of the IMC.