



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY:

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Mr J Vos (DA) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

- (1) With reference to the new visa regulations, what steps has he taken to (a) protect, and (b) promote the tourism industry in light of Air China cancelling the launch of direct flights to South Africa
- (2) does he have any plans in place to turn the situation of the impact of the new visa regulations on tourism around and encourage talks with Air China with the view that it may possible review its decision to cancel its direct flights to South Africa; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details.

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- (1) Airlines normally make decisions based on commercial considerations. Up until March 2015, South African Airways (SAA) was the only airline that operated direct scheduled flights on that route. Air connectivity between South Africa and China is serviced through SAA to and from Hong Kong daily, Emirates via Dubai to and from Beijing daily, Cathay Pacific to and from Hong Kong daily, Qatar Airways three times a week via Doha to and from Beijing and daily service to and from Beijing via Istanbul through Turkish Airline.

- (2) Air China is a commercial entity which has its own policies and processes that inform its decision-making. It is not our intention to enter into discussions with Air China with regards to their decision. However, we will continue to promote our destination in China taking into consideration the specific market conditions in relation to air connectivity options for the market.