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**Message of condolence to the family and friends of travel writer and influencer,  
Meruschka Govender**

**17 January 2019**

The Department of Tourism has learned with deep sadness of the passing of travel writer and influencer, Meruschka Govender, affectionately known as ***Mzansi Girl***. On behalf of the Department, I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to her family, friends and all those who knew her.

Through her admired travel writing, she contributed immensely to the promotion of our beautiful country as a tourist destination of choice. Her love and passion for travel was clearly demonstrated in the images and stories she shared on all the social media platforms.

She left her permanent mark on the face of tourism in South Africa, and will never be forgotten in our hearts and minds. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

**Derek Hanekom  
Minister of Tourism**