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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

18 July 2022

### **Minister pleased with tourism accommodation figures**

Tourism Minister Lindiwe Sisulu is pleased with the data released today, 18 July 2022, by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) on Tourist Accommodation.

Total income, measured in nominal terms (i.e. current prices), for the tourist accommodation industry increased by 86,6% in May 2022 compared with May 2021.

Stats SA reveals that income from accommodation increased by 61,6% year-on-year in May 2022, the result of a 31,9% increase in the number of stay unit nights sold and a 22,5% increase in the average income per stay unit night sold.

Income from Hotels, at current prices, making the largest contribution to the 61,6% year-on-year increase - having recorded an increase of 93,2% in income, at current prices, for May 2022.

This means that total income from accommodation increased from R2.9bn in March to May 2021 to close to R4.6bn for the same period in the 2022.

“While this is still below pre-Covid levels, the steady recovery is encouraging,” Minister Sisulu said.

However, the Minister expressed concern about reported flight shortages, especially between Cape Town and Johannesburg.

“We need to guard the gains we have made in fostering the recovery of our sector, and more collaborative efforts to manage the effects of the Covid-19 crisis are required. We cannot afford loss of confidence in our sector and country at this critical stage.” she said.

The Minister will continue to engage relevant stakeholders to understand the issues and seek solutions.

**Issued by Ministry of Tourism**

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