



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Private Bag X424, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa. Tel. (+27 12) 444 6780, Fax (+27 12) 444 7027
Private Bag X9154, Cape Town, 8000, South Africa. Tel. (+27 21) 469 5800, Fax: (+27 21) 465 3216

Statement by the Minister of Tourism on the death of 3 tourists in the North West on 1 October 2014

3 October 2014

The Minister of Tourism, Mr Derek Hanekom, expresses his condolences to the People's Republic of China, following a road accident involving twenty tourists on 1 October 2014. The accident took place when the tourists' bus collided with another vehicle in the North West province, killing three passengers and injuring several others.

China is our fourth largest long-haul tourist market and also an important political, economic and trade partner. "We are truly saddened by this tragic incident. On behalf of the government and people of South Africa, I would like to extend our sincere condolences and sympathy to the families and friends of those who have passed on. Our prayers are also with those injured and recuperating in hospital. We wish them a speedy recovery," the Minister commented from the UNWTO Executive Council in Uzbekistan.

The National Department of Tourism and South African Tourism will work closely with the Embassy and Consulate of the People's Republic of China to ensure that they receive the necessary support and feedback during this difficult period.

Enquiries:

Praveen Naidoo

Cell: +27 (0) 81 475 1056

Issued by: Ministry of Tourism