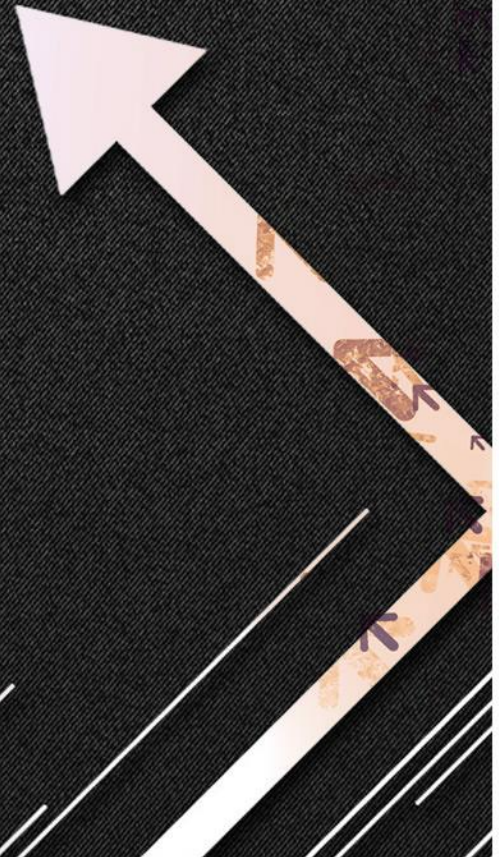


NDT POLICY WATCH

QUARTERLY UPDATE

October – December 2016



INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS



tourism

Department:
Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

1. INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Safe and Seamless Travel

The United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) and the World Travel Market (WTM) organised the Tourism Minister's Summit to discuss safety, security and seamless travel. The Summit, attended by Ministers from over 50 countries and the private sector, was held on the 09th November 2016 at the WTM in London. The Summit was aimed at addressing major safety and security challenges facing the tourism sector, ways of cooperation and effective crisis preparedness and management¹.

The event under the theme "Tourism and Security: Promoting Safe and Seamless Travel", discussed various risks and issues affecting travel and tourism such as health scares, natural disasters, geopolitical changes and terrorism. The event also called for the mainstreaming of tourism into national crisis and emergency structures. Lack of a coordinated approach and the need to set crisis management systems were identified as the biggest challenges to safe, secure and seamless travel. Furthermore, participants identified security as a shared responsibility among public and private sector across government administrations at all levels.

The UNWTO Secretary-General underlined the significance of safety and security as key pillars of tourism development which require a strengthened common action to build safe, secure and seamless travel framework. Ministers and the private sector also underscored the need for increased capacity in crisis communication and management as well as further collaboration among public, private sector and the media, especially the need for clear communication and actions during crisis situation.

Global Travel Association Coalition (GTAC), which is the leading global travel and tourism private sector and government organisations, also outlined a vision for enhancing security and facilitation to ensure sustainable growth of the sector. GTAC highlighted its readiness to work with governments around the world to further amongst others²:

- Target integration of Travel & Tourism in local, regional and international security planning and implementation structures and procedures
- The use of innovative and sustainable security technologies and processes to enhance efficiency and effectiveness, while improving the travel experiences
- Greater collaboration and coordination amongst policy makers within and across law enforcement entities, intelligence services and industry, and
- Increased intelligence and information sharing between local, national, regional and international security bodies.

The summit concluded with participants unanimously agreeing that the international community needs to work together on travel advisories and increase dialogue between destinations and source markets.

The approach is necessitated by the fact that what happens in one destination has a potential of affecting all other destinations.

¹ Rokou T, (2016). UNWTO/WTM Ministers Summit discusses safe and seamless travel. <http://www.traveldailynews.com/post/unwtowtm-ministers-summit-discusses-safe-and-seamless-travel>.

²Restanis A, (2016). Global Travel and Tourism leaders call for security and facilitation of travel to go hand in hand. <http://www.traveldailynews.com/post/global-travel-and-tourism-leaders-call-for-security-and-facilitation-of-travel-to-go-hand-in-hand>.

Tourism and Climate Change

The International Sustainable Tourism Symposium titled “advancing sustainable tourism in a changing climate” was held in Morocco in November 2016. The symposium was aimed at increasing awareness on tourism and climate change related issues and encouraging the sector to engage in actions that reinforce national commitments to the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The event focused, in particular, to the need for partnerships with the private sector and the role of sustainable transportation to accelerate climate change action in tourism³.

During the occasion, the role of tourism in implementing the Paris Agreement was tabled. The UNWTO Secretary-General, Taleb Rifai underlined the organisation’s commitment to contribute to the achievement of the objectives set by the Paris Agreement. Rifai further stated that “the event was essential to advance the agenda, especially discussions on measurement and reporting requirements as a basis for identifying and prioritizing climate change in tourism”. The Paris Agreement seeks to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius and strengthen countries’ abilities to deal with the impact of climate change.

The Secretariat Head of the International Symposium of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes, Charles Arden-Clarke, urged governments, businesses, NGOs and consumers to make a global shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns in addressing climate change. In light of the tourism’s 10% contribution to Global GDP, 7% of the world’s exports and one in 11 jobs, Ardene-Clarke viewed tourism as one of the main economic sectors in the world, and as such has to be at the core of this essential transition.

Similarly, the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) has launched a new report, *Tourism for Tomorrow Awards: Promoting and Rewarding Best Practice in Sustainable Tourism*, which explores recent trends in sustainable tourism. The report identifies what is needed for a step change in sustainable tourism impact and calls for⁴:

- More innovative initiatives being driven at scale
- Projects that cross the different tourism industries and use the expertise of those outside of the Travel & Tourism to deal with issues that companies themselves cannot solve alone.
- Sustainability as an intrinsic part of the company’s modus operandi, not part of a separate philanthropic effort
- Media engagement in and coverage of sustainable tourism issues and initiatives, to push for improvements, share success stories and promote best practices.

Furthermore, the President and CEO of WTTC, David Scowsill, highlighted the fact that 2017 has been designated by the United Nations as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. This, according Scowsill, presents a unique opportunity for the sector to highlight its economic and social benefits, investment and integration of sustainability across the board.

³ UNWTO Press Release. PR 16092. Tourism committed to fight climate change – COP22.

⁴ World Travel and Tourism Council Press Release (2016). Addressing climate change is now a must for any sustainable tourism programme. <http://www.wtcc.org/media-centre/press-release/2016/addressing-climate-change-is-now-a-must-for-any-sustainable-tourism-programme>.

European Union Renewable Energy Directive to Prioritise Sustainable Aviation Fuels

On the 30th of November 2016, the European Union (EU) published a directive of the EU Parliament and the Commission on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources. This prompted the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to welcome the European Commission's revision of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) to incentivise sustainable fuels and further urged policy-makers to go even further in prioritising their use for air transport⁵.

According to IATA, the road transport sector is the largest user of renewable fuels with increasing options to move towards electrification. However, this was reported not to be case for the aviation sector which currently has limited technological options and therefore has to continue with liquid fuel. Sustainable fuel policies prioritising air transport with a view to boost supply and reduce costs are therefore seen as critical.

The European Commission's vision is for Europe to become the leader in renewable energy, and the revision of the Renewable Energy Directive places it in a solid position towards attainment. However, the current challenge with sustainable aviation fuels (SAF), from the EU perspective, is to boost supply and cut costs. The EU is therefore of the view that greater production will help reduce prices, and reduced prices will encourage greater demand, thus boosting production. To break into this virtuous circle, the RED must strengthen its policy framework to incentivise production of SAF.

Director of Aviation Environment at IATA, Michael Gill noted aviation's path towards carbon-neutral growth and ultimately to reduce emissions in half. Gill viewed sustainable fuel as an essential element of IATA's carbon-cutting strategy, with the prospect of an 80% decrease in carbon compared to traditional jet fuel⁶. Policies to incentivise the production of such fuels have been successful in the United States and elsewhere. Gill stated that Europe has an opportunity to take the lead in sustainable fuel production if the revised RED contains the right measures.

The airline industry appears to subscribe to the notion of sustainability standards for alternative fuels. This includes commitment towards ensuring non-interference with biodiversity, food production and clean water resources. IATA also expressed its willingness to invest in alternative fuels and that the revision of the RED offers a unique opportunity for Europe to demonstrate what can be achieved when policy makers and industry collaborate on climate action and business innovation.

Religious Tourism, a Catalyst for Cultural Understanding

The UNWTO Conference on religious tourism was hosted by Utrecht, in Netherlands, from the 5th to the 7th October 2016 under the theme "Religious Heritage and Tourism". Hosted in partnership with various religious and heritage agencies, the conference sought to underline the potential of religion to promote growth of the sector while fostering cultural understanding⁷.

⁵ Restanis A, (2016) EU Renewable Energy Directive must Prioritize Sustainable Aviation Fuels. <http://www.traveldailynews.com/post/eu-renewable-energy-directive-must-prioritize-sustainable-aviation-fuels>.

⁶ As cited in Restanis.

⁷ UNWTO Press Release (2016) PR No 16090. Religious tourism a catalyst for cultural understanding.

The conference underlined the contribution of religious tourism to economic prosperity and the role of religious tourism as an added value to the offer of cities, villages and regions. In this respect, the event underlined the significance of methodologies to assess the socio-economic impact of religious heritage tourism and need for strategies to develop these sites as authentic travel destinations.

The conference also discussed issues of heritage conservation particularly in those cases where congestion constitutes a key challenge. Other topics discussed includes marketing strategies to improve access to information related to religious heritage tourism; the role of religious communities to promote religious heritage; the importance of investing in new technologies and capacity building; and the role of historic commemorations in promoting religious tourism.

Visits to religious sites, which are essential elements of human kind history and culture, were identified as one of the major travel motivations. Besides religion being a motivation to travel, it is also seen as a driving force that brings together people from different backgrounds for a common cause including protection of tangible and intangible heritage.

Accordingly, the UNWTO emphasised its commitment to promote religious tourism as it increases every year, as well as its capacity to build understanding among different faiths and cultures⁸. It also linked religious tourism with the fundamental principles of the Global Code of Ethics in Tourism. One of the 10 Principles of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, includes tourism's contribution to mutual understanding and respect between people and societies and underline Tourism as a user of the cultural heritage of mankind and contributor to its enhancement.

UNWTO Summit Recommends Urban Planning and City Tourism

The significance of integrated planning particularly between urban planning and city tourism took centre stage on occasion of the 05th UNWTO City Tourism Summit in Luxor, Egypt. Around 400 experts engaged on the theme, Cities: Local Culture for a global traveller with emphasis on coordination of urban planning and city tourism developments⁹.

Participants in the event also discussed emerging and established trends in the city tourism landscape which includes new business models such as, the sharing economy; importance of millennials; emerging niche markets; authentic cultural experiences and engaging local communities ; safety and security and congestion management. Some of the key success factors that were identified for development of city tourism included amongst others, the importance of authenticity; local culture; engaging of local communities and the use of technology¹⁰.

The High-Level Panel of the Summit stressed the importance of placing tourism high in the urban agenda and creating mechanism for coordination and joint planning. According to the panel, the city that does not serve its citizens will not serve its visitors. Thus it is important to engage local communities and tourists. There was also an emphasis on the significance of ensuring that tourism proceeds are invested

⁸ As cited in the Press Release

⁹ Karantzavelou V, (2016) Urban Planning and City Tourism need to go hand in hand. <http://www.traveldailynews.com/post/urban-planning-and-city-tourism-need-to-go-hand-in-hand>.

¹⁰ As cited in Karantzavelou

towards heritage preservation and renovation. This is in light of the authenticity demands by today's travellers.

The New Age of the Sharing Economy for Business Travel

The International SOS conducted a survey amongst business travelers and travel managers. The survey exposed lack of clear guidance from organisations on how, when and if the services were appropriate to be used by employees while abroad. The released survey, reported on the benefits, risks and legal considerations of using sharing economy (shared transport and accommodation services) during business travel. The report by International SOS aims to guide organisations in building a travel policy that is appropriate, clear and considered¹¹.

The survey indicates that while 40% of respondents reported using services like Uber and Airbnb when travelling abroad for business, 75% of organisations lack policies or procedures for how to use these services during international business travel. More than half of the respondents did not know whether their organisations had considered the legality of sharing services in certain countries.

Subsequently, the Executive Vice President of International SOS indicated that while there are many benefits of using these types of services, it is important for organisations to realise that using sharing economy services for business-related travel creates new risks and challenges that need to be managed and mitigated. World's largest medical and travel security company revealed that businesses may be unprepared when it comes to sending employees abroad.

Travellers should consider the following factors when determining whether the use of shared accommodation and transport services are appropriate when they are travelling abroad¹²:

- Security standards. Are the security standards appropriate to the risks in the destination?
- Emergency response. Does the property have alternative power or telecommunication systems?
- Support services. Do you have access to multilingual staff or medical assistance?
- Vetting of staff. Are there formal background checks for the driver and/ or host?
- Reputation. Is the provider considered reputable in the region?

Additional considerations, including travel safety checklists and policy recommendations, are available in the report. The report can be accessed on <https://www.internationalsos.com>.

New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants

The United National General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which deals with issues of human mobility and aims to enhance the protection of refugees and migrants. The Declaration charts the way forward for refugee protection through a comprehensive refugee response (CRR) framework for large-scale refugee movements, including protracted situations and will lead towards the adoption of a global compact refugees in 2018¹³.

¹¹ International SOS News Release, 01 November 2016. Business Travel in the Age of Sharing Economy. <https://www.internationalsos.com/newsroom/news-releases/business-travel-in-age-of-the-sharing-economy>.

¹² As cited in the International SOS News Release

¹³ www.unhcr.org/refugee

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants signals the political will by world leaders to save lives, protect rights and share responsibility on a global scale. The following commitments were identified as critical¹⁴:

- Protection of human rights of all refugees and migrants, regardless of status. This includes the rights of women and girls and promoting their full, equal and meaningful participation in finding solutions.
- Ensure that all refugee and migrant children are receiving education within a few months of arrival.
- Prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence.
- Support those countries rescuing, receiving and hosting large numbers of refugees and migrants.
- Work towards ending the practice of detaining children for the purposes of determining their migration status.
- Strongly condemn xenophobia against refugees and migrants and support a global campaign to counter it.
- Strengthen the positive contributions made by migrants to economic and social development in their host countries.
- Improve the delivery of humanitarian and development assistance to those countries most affected, including through innovative multilateral financial solutions, with the goal of closing all funding gaps.
- Implement a comprehensive refugee response, based on a new framework that sets out the responsibility of Member States, civil society partners and the UN system, whenever there is a large movement of refugees or a protracted refugee situation.
- Find new homes for all refugees identified by UNHCR as needing resettlement; and expand the opportunities for refugees to relocate to other countries through, for example, labour mobility or education schemes.
- Strengthen the global governance of migration by bringing the International Organization for Migration into the UN system.

In addition, South Africa has welcomed the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and applauded the UN's commitment to protect the human rights of all refugees and migrants regardless of status. South Africa also committed to meaningfully contribute to the development of the Comprehensive Response Framework and other commitments related to safe, orderly and regular migration.

South Africa becomes the first African country to host the World Ecotourism Conference

South Africa continues to attract major international events. The 7th World Ecotourism Conference will be held in North West Province, South Africa, which will be the first for the African continent. This international conference will be held in 2017 at Sun City, a getaway destination, with a fully integrated resort complex located just next to Pilanesberg National Park which is a popular big 5 game drive facility¹⁵. The Annual World Ecotourism Conference, held in collaboration with the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), is the world's most important ecotourism conference with transformative impact on the tourism industry in developing countries. The conference focuses on the commitment of protecting nature and environment, betterment of ecotourism and uplifting the well-being of local communities.

¹⁴ <http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/declaration>

¹⁵ Discovery Mice. News Gallery. (2016). 7th World Ecotourism Conference, South Africa. <http://www.discoverymice.com/gallery.html>

The World Ecotourism Conference is also reported to be one of the most influential conferences in the world that transforms Governmental political and development policies in tourism and protection of natural resources. The Conference also fosters a global initiative to develop leadership among proponents and practitioners of ecotourism around the world and across time and location.

2. NATIONAL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

National Gambling Amendment Bill published for Public Comment

The Department of Trade and Industry (the dti) issued in the Government Gazette No.40320, the National Gambling Amendment Bill for public comment on the 30th September 2016. This follows a review of the National Gambling Policy which commenced during 2015 with the intention of reviewing the gambling landscape of South Africa.

The objectives of the Bill is to, amongst other things, amend the National Gambling Act, 2004, to provide for the repositioning of the National Gambling Board as a Regulator; to provide for the restriction of gambling advertisements, unsolicited advertisements and promotions. The Bill also provides for the recognition of self-regulating body of the horseracing industry and for the strengthening of the regulation of casinos, limited pay-out machines and bingo including automatic forfeiture of unlawful winnings to the National Gambling Regulator;

The Bill's intention is to reposition the National Gambling Board to become the National Gambling Regulator (NGR) which will assume the functions of the National Gambling Board, including research and dissemination of information. Restrictions on gambling advertising would ensure the prohibition of advertising through unsolicited messages as that may entice vulnerable groups like minors. If approved, the Bill will also disempower provincial licensing authorities to issue licences in relation to lottery or any activity related to the lottery, like sports pools to ensure that the authority of the National Lotteries Act is not undermined¹⁶.

Members of the public and interested stakeholders were requested to submit comments to the Amendment Bill by 15 November 2016.

National Liquor Amendment Bill published for Public Comment

The Department of Trade and Industry issued in the Government Gazette 40319, the National Liquor Amendment Bill for public comment on 30 September 2016. This follows a review of the national liquor policy as government needed to, amongst others, adopt a comprehensive and coordinated approach to deal with the social harm resulting from alcohol abuse.

The Liquor Amendment Bill seeks to amend the Liquor Act, 2003 (Act 59 of 2003). The bill intends to eradicate manufacturing and trading of illegal and illicit alcohol, as well as challenges regarding regulatory capacity within the National Liquor Authority. The intervention focuses on reducing socio-economic harms and other costs of liquor abuse, restructuring the liquor industry and enhancing cooperation between all spheres of government. The bill also addresses the slow pace of transformation, standardisation of key aspects of regulation and improved regulatory collaboration.

Furthermore, the Bill introduces a new clause of civil liability to manufacturers who supply liquor to these unlicensed suppliers. The Bill also proposes the inclusion of civil liability against those involved in illegal alcohol trade to improve enforcement. Manufacturers and suppliers will be required to show that they

¹⁶ Government Gazette No. 40320. www.gponline.co.za

took reasonable steps to ensure that their products are not supplied to unlicensed outlets. On advertising, limitations will be placed on advertising of alcohol products that targets young people when it comes to times, content and parameters. Norms and standards will be introduced for provincial authorities to comply with, including rejecting new liquor registrations of outlets that are located within 500 meters from schools, places of worship and recreational facilities¹⁷.

Members of the public and interested stakeholders were requested to submit comments to the Amendment Bill by 30 November 2016.

Public Procurement Bill

In an environment of slow economic growth and limited resources, government is committed to reducing waste hence the Public Procurement Bill. The National Treasury has announced that the Public Procurement Bill will be considered by Cabinet before April 2017. The Bill is aimed at consolidating the legal and policy framework for supply chain management. It will establish an apex procurement authority as the guardian of section 217 of the constitution, which requires public procurement to be fair; equitable; transparent; competitive and cost effective. The Bill will also empower the Chief Procurement Officer to conduct lifestyle audits and review transactions across the public sector¹⁸.

The Treasury indicated that the draft Preferential Procurement Regulations are being revised to ensure that at least 30% of public procurement is reserved for designated groups, including small and medium enterprises; cooperatives; and rural and township enterprises as an interim measure while the new procurement bill, which has similar provisions, is finalised.

With the new Bill, many manual processes will be automated to simplify and speed up supply chain management. Furthermore, government is set to expand the scope of transversal contracts over the next three years which will allow multiple organs of state to buy goods and services at competitive pre-negotiated prices, reducing costs and administrative requirements.

National Treasury tables Carbon Tax Report

On 10 November 2016, The National Treasury published a carbon tax modelling report that provides an assessment of the impacts of a proposed carbon tax policy. The study was conducted on behalf of National Treasury, under the Partnership for Market Readiness initiative, administered by the World Bank, which is aimed at supporting countries to strengthen their policy analysis and technical capacity to implement carbon pricing measures. Consideration of environmentally related taxes form part of government's policy response to climate change

The report suggests that the carbon tax will have a significant impact on reducing South Africa's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and would lead to an estimated decrease in emissions of 13% to 14% by 2025 and 26% to 33% by 2035, compared with business as usual. The carbon tax will also ensure that emission reductions are delivered, while sustained economic growth is realised. The modelling results estimate that a carbon tax will reduce the annual average growth rate of the economy by 0.15 percentage points¹⁹.

According to Treasury, the carbon tax would make an important contribution towards reaching South Africa's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) commitments under the recently ratified Paris

¹⁷ Government Gazette 40319. www.gponline.co.za

¹⁸ Medium Term Budget Policy Statement. 2016. <http://www.treasury.gov.za/documents/mtbps/2016/mtbps/Chapter%204.pdf>

¹⁹National Treasury. Media Statement. (November 2016). Publication of the Carbon Tax Modelling Report. http://www.treasury.gov.za/comm_media/press/2016

Agreement for emissions to peak in 2020 to 2025, plateau for a ten year period from 2025 to 2035 and decline thereafter.

The National Treasury cautioned that any possible negative impact from climate change and unabated emissions or benefits from reducing GHG emissions as well as co-benefits, such as lower levels of local air pollution, have not been factored into the modelling. As a result, the model analysis and results are likely to underestimate the benefits of the carbon tax policy and should be viewed as an assessment of the overall impact of introducing a carbon tax in South Africa”.

The study also considered both the main and alternative baseline. The main baseline scenario assumed annual average GDP growth of 3.5% from 2016 to 2035, while the alternative baseline scenario assumed average annual GDP of 2.4% from 2018 to 2035.

Travellers advised to comply with SA’s import regulations

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) has advised all international travellers, who will be visiting South Africa during the festive season, to comply with the country’s import requirements for agricultural and related regulated imports.

The department said in the media statement “compliance will assist the country to minimise or prevent the potential risk of introducing alien invasive species, foreign pests and diseases that could be associated with imported products, plants, animals and other regulated goods. If introduced into the country, such elements may be expensive and difficult to control, hence prevention is pertinent”²⁰. DAFF underlines South Africa’s responsibilities and rights to protect its territory, biodiversity and economy against harm. The department also listed the items that are regulated. The country regulates the importation of animals and products; liquor products; plants and products; honey and products; as well as any other potentially harmful materials from other countries into its territory. The control of these animals and plant products is in accordance with the country’s relevant legislation, which seeks to prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of pests and diseases from other parts of the worlds.

DAFF acknowledged that import conditions may differ according to the country of origin and advised travellers to contact the department’s offices for detailed information regarding products to be imported. For animals and animal’s products, travellers can call 012 3197514/7476, fax 012 319 8292 or email: Vetpermits@daff.gov.za. For Plants and plants products, they can call 012 319 6102/6130/6207, fax 012 319 6370 or email: PlantsHealthPermits@daff.gov.za. For information regarding liquor products, they can call 012 319 633/ 078 754 4488 or 060 527 3622 or email: MerciaR@daff.gov.za, NjokoS@daff.gov.za or WillieMath@daff.gov.za.

Electronic taxi fare collection system launched to simplify travel in Gauteng

South Africa has taken a step towards the modernisation of the taxi industry. The Gauteng MEC for Roads and Transport, Ismail Vadi launched an electronic taxi fare system on 17 October 2016 at Bosman Street Taxi in Pretoria. The launch coincided with the October Transport Month campaign by the provincial government under the theme “Modernisation of Public Transport in Gauteng”. The card based project allows commuters to load cash on to cards through devices at kiosks at the taxi ranks which will eventually be available in retail stores.

²⁰ Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Media Statement. (November 2016). Importation of agricultural and regulated products into the republic of South Africa during the festive season. <http://www.nda.agric.za/docs/media/MediaRelease>

This means commuters will no longer have to worry about carrying cash and taxi drivers not having enough change²¹.

The taxi e-ticketing system belongs to the taxi industry. It was reported that the system is owned and implemented by FairPay of which TaxiChoice, the commercial arm of the South African National Taxi Council (Santaco) is currently the sole shareholder, with Curve Group Holdings being the primary technology partner. The pilot of this project will be in February 2017 on the Johannesburg-Mabopane-Pretoria (JMP) route as the JMP Taxi Association has been involved in previous pilot projects and cashless system. The project will be expanded to other taxi routes, with the aim of completing a national roll-out within five years.

According to the Chairperson of TaxiChoice, Jothan Msibi, the system has been tested thoroughly and is fully compliant with all laws and regulations, as well as requirements of all parties involved. The technology also enables the easy provisioning of new services such as incentivising the adoption of the card through reduced fares for pensioners and persons with disabilities. For taxi operators, the new systems will come with benefits from automated bookkeeping and improved business compliance, while moving towards formal banking for transactions thus improving their creditworthiness.

In addition to replacement of cash by cards, the equipment installed in taxis will come with technological advantages. This entails a GPS device which can act as a Wi-Fi hotspot, providing commuters with internet connectivity on board. The GPS device can also keep a record of speed, harsh acceleration and braking which will assist in monitoring driver behaviour and safety in the South African taxi industry. Furthermore, data gathered will assist future transport planning. It will for example, provide accurate understanding of the volumes of people using specific routes which will in turn contribute to better fleet management and route planning. It was also reported that this information may be shared with government to inform data driven decisions in providing the required level of transport services to underserved areas.

Amendment of the National Road Traffic Regulations

The Minister of Transport issued in the Government Gazette No.40420, the Amendment of the National Road Traffic Regulations on 11 November 2016. Section 75 (6) of the National Road Traffic Act, 1996 (Act No. 93 of 1996) empowers the Minister of Transport to make regulations.

There are only two amendments in this gazette. Regulation 250 is amended to specifically state that school children may not be transported for reward in the goods compartment of a vehicle. Other persons may also not be transported in the goods compartment for reward unless it is done in terms of the NLTA.

Regulation 293 has been amended in that Goods vehicles with a GVM of more than 3 500 kg up to 9 000 kg are now limited to a maximum speed of 100 km/h. The maximum general speed limit of 120 km/h was applicable to the vehicles up to 11 November /2016²².

These Regulations are called the Twenty Fourth Amendment to the National Road Traffic Regulations, and shall come into operation on the date of publication in the Gazette, except for Regulation 250 which shall come into operation 6 months from the date of publication in the Gazette.

²¹ South African News Agency. (2016).E-ticket simplifies travelling for GP taxi commuters. <http://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/e-ticket-simplifies-travelling-gp-taxi-commuters>

²² Government Gazette No.40420. www.gponline.co.za

3. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

New Smart Security screening systems implemented at OR Tambo International Airport

OR Tambo International Airport has become the first African Airport to implement a new Smart Security system. The system is in a form of a new screening booth for international passengers departing OR Tambo, which came into effect on 08 November 2016.

The new Smart Security system seeks to digitize the security check process with a view to speed up passenger progress through security and further enhance security through use of state-of-the-art scanners²³. The implementation of the Smart Security System means passengers will no longer be required to unpack laptops and other electronics. The screen of the full body scans shows security an avatar that looks like an outline of a person which means far fewer physical searches.

The Smart Security programme is part of Airports Company South Africa's (ACSA) 2025 vision to be the most sought-after partner in the world for the provision of sustainable airport management solution. Bongiwe Pityi, General Manager of OR Tambo International Airport, says the new smart security system complies with the highest global standards for airport security. Pityi also stated that "there are only a few of these high-tech passenger security screening systems in use around the world, and ACSA is pleased to again be leading the way in terms of enhancing both security and the passenger experience. OR Tambo International Airport is consistently rated highly in independent customer surveys and ACSA believes the advent of smart security will further improve the passenger experience".

The pilot of the smart security checkpoint will run until the end of January 2017, when its effectiveness will be assessed and possible improvements identified. From ACSA's perspective it should be feasible, over time, to introduce the system across all the airports it operates.

South Africa signs a Bilateral Air Service Agreement with Namibia

South Africa continues to enter into cooperation with various neighbouring countries to advance integrated development within Southern African Development Community. South Africa and Namibia have signed a Bilateral Air Service Agreement in October 2016, in Pretoria, to strengthen the already existing civil aviation relations between the two countries.

According to the South African Minister of Transport, Dipuo Peters, the air service arrangements are liberal in that designated airlines are allowed to inter alia, operate an unlimited number of flights per week per side for passenger services and the exercise of fifth freedom traffic rights at intra-African points²⁴. The fifth freedom traffic rights allows an airline to carry revenue traffic between foreign countries as part of services connecting the airline's own country.

The designated airlines for South Africa are South African Airways; South African Express; South African Airlink; Comair and Fly Blue Crane and on the Namibian side are Air Namibia; Nomad Aviation and Westair Aviation.

²³Steyn, L. (2016). <http://traveller24.news24.com/TravelPlanning/pics-or-tambo-new-smart-security-kicks-off-with-smooth-run-20161109>

²⁴South African Government News Agency. (2016). SA, Namibia sign aviation pact. <http://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sa-namibia-sign-aviation-pact>

The Minister stated that the bilateral relationship is strategic for both countries from a fiscal and import / export perspective and the economic nature of the relationship is interdependence. The Minister further emphasised South Africa's position that Africa needs to consolidate its own transport market and industry in order to remain relevant and individual member states need to support the regional economic communities' initiatives.

South Africa and Kenya Sign diplomatic Visa Waiver Agreement

On the Occasion of President Jacob Zuma's state visit to Kenya in October 2016, South Africa and Kenya signed various agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoU). The agreements include a visa waiver for diplomatic and official passport holders, military training, visits and technical assistance as well as mutual assistance between customs and administration. The MoU's were signed on police cooperation, biodiversity conservation and management and the Lamu-Port Southern Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor.

The President viewed the signing of these instruments as a clear indication of the two countries' collective determination to take their relations to a higher level. The two countries also discussed migration to ensure the efficient movement of goods and people to increase the volume of economic activity between the two countries. Most importantly, President Zuma highlighted that security measures needed to be considered very carefully, since Kenya had been targeted by terror groups, who might exploit such opportunity for their own criminal or terrorist ends. Views on important regional, continental and global issues of mutual concern, particularly the issue of peace and security in the continent were also discussed²⁵.

The South African government indicated that further discussions will be taking place between the two countries on the issue of immigration and non-tariff barriers to trade, with a view to remove obstacles hindering such activities. Ministers from both countries have been tasked to urgently work on the implementation of the signed agreements and a progress report is expected in the next meeting in the near future.

Immigration Reforms under consideration to Boost Tourism

Policy uncertainty in any economy undermines confidence, with consequences for investment and job creation. Accordingly, government is taking steps to strengthen policy certainty in several key areas. The National Treasury made the announcement at the tabling of the 2016 Medium Term Budget Policy Statement in Parliament that, immigration reforms to speed visa processing and boost tourism are under consideration. These includes the introduction of a new long term multiple entry visa to frequent travellers, business people and academics, and visas on arrival for some categories of travellers²⁶.

The treasury viewed the acceleration of immigration reforms as one way of reducing the cost of doing the business. The announcement was done as part of efforts to highlight measures currently underway to strengthen policy certainty in key areas such as immigration, mining and communication.

²⁵South African Government. Media Statement. (October 2016). President Jacob Zuma concludes State visit to Kenya. <http://www.gov.za/speeches/president-jacob-zuma-concludes-state-visit-kenya>.

²⁶ Medium Term Budget Policy Statement. (2016). <http://www.treasury.gov.za/documents/mtbps/2016/mtbps/Chapter%202.pdf>

Currently, 10 year multiple entry visas are available to visitors from the BRICS countries i.e. Brazil, Russia, India and China.

City of Joburg introduces free shuttle bus service to Lilliesleaf Farm

Cities are making an effort to attract more visitors, increase tourism and create more job opportunities. The City of Johannesburg Tourism entity, Bryanston Organic & Natural Market and the Lillies Farm heritage site have jointly introduced a free shuttle bus between selected Sandton hotels and the two prime tourist attractions in northern Johannesburg.

The city reported that the shuttle services allows tourists to combine a visit to Lillies Farm, a heritage site honouring a former place of refuge for the liberation movement leaders with a shopping experience at Bryanston Organic & Natural Market in a tranquil and leafy outdoor setting. This initiative is in support of the development of tourism and giving visitors reasons for extending their stay in the city.

There are three pickups on Thursdays and Saturdays at 9am, 10am and 1pm, catering for guests at hotels such as Maslow; Hilton; Radisson Blue Holiday Inn; Balalaika, Michalengelo; Da Vinci Suites and Sandton Sun. Return trips takes place at 12:15pm and 3pm. The free shuttle bus service provides visitors with a hassle free and reliable door to door service.

Launch of Tourism Enterprise Development Incubator

The Minister of Tourism, Derek Hanekom launched a Tourism Enterprise Development Incubator, which is a vehicle aimed at providing business support to tourism enterprises, clustered along thriving tourism nodes in the country. The programme will focus on viable existing Small Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMME's). The pilot incubator will target 50 SMMEs in the Bojanala District, in the North West Province and will support them for three years to become sustainable²⁷

In order to qualify, SMME's must be affiliated to a local tourism association and be operational. In addition, there is no turn over requirement for participation by SMME's but the suitability evaluation will consider the official description of the SMMEs in line with the Small Development Act.

Speaking at the launch, North West Tourism MEC Desbo Mohono underlined the issue of establishing a network of business incubators to nurture particular groups of emerging small enterprises as long overdue. Meanwhile, Kgosi Nyalala Pilane of Bakgatlha Ba Kgafela encouraged participants to work together by highlighting the fact that the incubator is not just about tourism as it has many other elements across the tourism value chain.

²⁷Department of Tourism. Media Statement. October 2016. Launch of the Tourism Enterprise Development Incubator.
<https://www.tourism.gov.za/AboutNDT/Publications/Launch%20of%20the%20Tourism%20Enterprise%20Development%20Incubator.pdf>

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