

TOURISM POLICY BULLETIN

National Department of Tourism

September 2018



tourism

Department:
Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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INTRODUCTION

The tourism sector is multidisciplinary in nature and its growth and success is highly dependent on other sectors. This multi-sectoral nature of tourism subjects it to various policy and regulatory frameworks some of which could potentially impact negatively on the development and growth of tourism. The Tourism Policy Bulletin focuses on various policy developments at the global, national and local levels.

The aim of the Bulletin is to provide an overview of recent policy developments across sectors, with a view to inform tourism stakeholders and encourage proactive responses. Policy developments covered by this issue range from tourism, customs, transport, bills and international agreements.

NATIONAL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

1. Policy Developments on Visa



The process of facilitating ease of access to destination South Africa is continuing earnestly. Cabinet announced, on the 19th of September 2018, that a number of changes will be made to ease access for tourists, business people and academia to travel to South Africa. Travel reforms will include amendments to immigration regulations in relation to foreign minors travelling to South Africa, visa waivers and relaxation of visa requirements for certain countries.

The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) is in the process of simplifying the rules on travelling minors who are foreign nationals to minimise disruption without compromising the safety of minors and the rights of their parents. The department is expected to issue an international travel advisory regarding the issue after consultation with the Immigration Advisory Board (IAB).

Furthermore, negotiations are being finalised to conclude Visa Waiver Agreements for ordinary passport holders with the following countries, from respective regions¹:

AFRICA: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Sao Tome & Principe, Tunisia, Saharawi-Arab Democratic Republic and Ghana.

MIDDLE-EAST: Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, State of Palestine, Iran, Lebanon, Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait.

EASTERN EUROPE: Belarus and Georgia; and
CARIBBEAN: Cuba

In addition, DHA is simplifying visa requirements for countries such as China and India. This will make provision for taking biometrics on arrival in South Africa; allowing visa applications via courier and issuing 5-year multiple entry visas. According to the department, this should be in place by October 2018. DHA will also consider easing travel restrictions for certain categories of visitors for countries such as Nigeria and Kenya.

DHA has also implemented long term multiple entry visas for frequent travellers for purposes of promoting tourism, business meetings and academic exchange. The department has a three-year multiple entry visa for frequent trusted travellers to South Africa, and a ten-year long term multiple entry visa for business people and academics from Africa. Meanwhile, business people from BRICS countries who require visas (China and India) are issued a 10-year multiple entry visa, within 5 days of application.

Consultations are being finalised with other government departments, academics, business and organised labour, to implement a reviewed critical skills list by April 2019. According to DHA, this will assist in attracting and retaining critically skilled labour to enhance economic development and advance the country's new path of growth, employment and transformation. In order to retain critical skills, foreign students who graduate at South African institutions of higher learning within critical skills categories, are offered an opportunity to apply for permanent residence upon graduation. Those who do not opt for permanent residence are issued with critical skills visas.

¹ <http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/statements-speeches/1186-statement-by-the-minister-of-home-affairs-mr-malusi-gigaba-mp->

[at-the-media-briefing-on-visa-related-reforms-in-pretoria-on-25-september-2018](http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/statements-speeches/1186-statement-by-the-minister-of-home-affairs-mr-malusi-gigaba-mp-at-the-media-briefing-on-visa-related-reforms-in-pretoria-on-25-september-2018)

South Africa is currently finalising the development of a new Biometric Movement Control System which will be piloted at Cape Town and Lanseria International Airports. This is expected to enhance efficiency during the clearing of travellers arriving at the country's international airports.

The development of e-Visa is at an advanced stage and will be piloted in New Zealand, by April 2019. This development will significantly enhance efficiency in the issuing of visas to tourists and business people visiting South Africa. e-Visas are expected to be rolled out in other countries, once the concerns have been dealt with during the pilot phase.

Piloting e-Gates at OR Tambo, Cape Town and King Shaka International Airports will commence in 2019. This will allow returning South African citizens, as well as certain categories of trusted travellers, to be processed electronically rather than having to interact with an immigration officer. The process is intended to increase efficiencies and convenience, and improve facilitation of movement of frequent travellers going through the country's international airports.

2. The South African Economic Stimulus and Recovery Plan



President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced a package of economic reforms and spending plans in an effort to boost South Africa's economy. The purpose of the plan is to ignite economic activity, restore investor

confidence, prevent further job losses and create new jobs. The plan centres around five pillars: policy reform which will enhance economic growth, the reprioritisation of public spending, the establishment of an Infrastructure Fund, addressing urgent and pressing matters in education and health, and investment in municipal infrastructure.

The President announced that some of the policy amendments which have constrained growth will be changed, including the country's visa regime; reviewing the Mining Charter; reviewing tariffs and taxes on local industries and business; reprioritising agriculture; job creation and upliftment of township economies and infrastructure development.

The major element of the economic stimulus and recovery plan is the reprioritisation of spending towards activities that have a major impact on economic growth, domestic demand and job creation, with a particular emphasis on township and rural economies, women and youth.

Agriculture is identified as a major driver of economic recovery and will receive priority funding. An advisory panel on land reform, consisting of 10 experts, has been set up to help galvanise the sector and to ensure sustainability, growth and food security. According to the stimulus plan, amendments will be made, in the next few months, to immigration regulations on traveling with minors; the list of countries requiring visas to enter South Africa will be reviewed; an e-visa pilot will be implemented; and the visa

requirements for highly skilled foreigners will be revised².

3. Jobs Summit

The President convened the Jobs Summit to address the crisis of unemployment gripping the country. The summit sought to ensure visible change in the lives of the people and the economy through partnerships and collaboration.

The summit revolved around the principles/strategies of sound and responsive government; upgrading skills and capacity; infrastructure development; innovative worker friendly measures; maintaining and strengthening social safety net; and support for township and rural enterprises.

Various interventions were identified to deal with the crisis of unemployment. These amongst others include Education and Skills interventions; Public employment and social interventions; Small Micro and Medium Enterprises interventions; and Economic sector interventions.

The latter intervention focuses on local procurement; the country's growing exports; agriculture and agro-processing; gas-based industrialisation; and increasing local content in the automotive value chain. Social partners acknowledged the deficiencies in implementing the previous job summits, and agreed to establish a Presidential Job's Committee that will receive quarterly progress reports on implementation of actions. The committee, which will be supported by a technical committee, will monitor implementation.

² <https://www.fin24.com/Economy/full-text-president-ramaphosas-economic-recovery-plan-speech-20180921>

4. Regulations in Respect of the National Tourism Information and Monitoring System



The Minister of Tourism issued, in the Government Gazette, on the 7th of September 2018, the intention to make Regulations in Respect of the National Tourism Information and Monitoring System³. The purpose of the regulations is to regulate the collection; recording; management; analysis and dissemination of information and data on tourism. The regulations aim to monitor developments and trends in the tourism sector.

Categories of data and information to be captured on the system include:

- All tourism related information, such as Tourism Satellite Account classifications and categories;
- Accommodation;
- Meetings, exhibitions, conferences and special events;
- Attractions and activities;
- Tour operators and tourist guide services;
- Restaurants and similar services;
- Tourism information services;
- Hiring and leasing;
- Passenger transport and related services;
- Travel agencies and other reservation services;
- Cultural services;
- Sports and recreational services; and

³ https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/41887_gen543.pdf

- Tourism-related infrastructure.

The regulations states that data and information may be provided in hard copies or electronically; must be provided at least once a year; and must be provided within 30 days where there are changes to the information or upon request. The proposed system will also allow the Department of Tourism to verify information as a form of audit.

Additionally, the system will make it an offence to deliberately provide incorrect or misleading information, with a punishment of either/or a fine or imprisonment not exceeding 12 months.

5. Draft White Paper on Science, Technology and Innovation



The Minister of Science and Technology, Ms MT Kubayi-Ngubane, has released a draft of the 2018 White Paper on Science, Technology and Innovation for public consultation. The aim of the White paper is to build on successes and adopt new approaches where required, so as to foster a National System of Innovation (NSI) in

⁴ <https://www.gov.za/documents/science-and-technology-white-paper>

which creativity, learning and entrepreneurship can flourish.

The objectives of the White Paper are⁴;

- Raising the profile of science, technology and innovation (STI) in South Africa by instilling an innovation culture in South African society and integrating STI into cross-cutting government planning at the highest levels.
- Strengthening partnerships between business, government, academia and civil society, creating a more enabling environment for STI.
- Innovation for social benefit and for fundamental economic transformation.
- Expanding and transforming the human resource base of the national system of innovation.
- Increasing investment, both public and private, in STI.

According to Mister Kubayi-Ngubane the White Paper is a milestone long-term policy direction for the next five to 15 years for government to ensure a growing role for STI in a prosperous and inclusive society in which the potential of all South Africans is realised⁵.

The White Paper focuses on ensuring that South Africa benefits from STI for economic growth, social development and transformation and responding to the risks and opportunities brought by rapid global technological advancement and other global changes⁶.

⁵ <https://www.itweb.co.za/content/xnkiOvzbOENv4Ymz>

⁶ <https://www.itweb.co.za/content/xnkiOvzbOENv4Ymz>

6. South African Revenue Services Customs Requirements



The South African Revenue Services (SARS) released the customs requirements for travelling South Africans. The requirements aim to inform South African travellers about items that need to be declared when leaving and returning to South Africa⁷.

According to the SARS, it is within the mandate of the custom officer to establish, upon return, if the goods were purchased locally and declared, if not, penalty implications including duty charges will be applied. The proof required can be in a form of an invoice, an insurance record, contents of the laptop as well as any other means which the custom officer can use his or her discretion to satisfy the proof. In cases where the custom officer is not satisfied with the proof, the officer will advise the traveller of detaining the items until such proof can be presented. The traveller can also choose to pay the duty and VAT fees in the event that the traveller wants to retain the item. However, the amount is refunded to the traveller once the proof of local purchase or ownership is presented to customs.

SARS indicated that current legislation does not require South African residents travelling abroad to declare their personal items upon return. Personal items include laptops, iPads, cellphones, golf clubs, cameras and or any other high value items in their luggage or possessions. Based on the current provisions, no traveller can be penalised for not declaring or registering their personal effects upon leaving the country. However, a challenge could arise upon return to the country by customs officer to provide proof of local purchase or ownership.

⁷ <http://www.sars.gov.za/ClientSegments/Customs-Excise/Travellers/Pages/default.aspx>

To respond to the above, an alternative to provide such proof under the policy framework called “Registration for Re-importation” has been created. SARS indicated that the process is now more user-friendly and secured. The traveller should complete a TC-01 form known as traveller card noting their intent to register goods for re-importation. The travelling card is presented to the customs officer to capture it online on the traveller declaration system. The traveller will then authenticate the declaration by signing on the digital signature pad. The process remains valid for six months and will serve as an advantage for frequent travellers as well as obviate the need for travellers to be questioned upon return to the country.

SARS has issued advice to travellers to follow the procedure outlined above in order to avoid inconvenience of being questioned and having to explain and provide proof upon returning to the country from travel abroad.

7. Integrated Planning Framework Bill



Cabinet has approved the Integrated Planning Framework Bill for publication in the Government Gazette, for public comments. The aim of the Bill is to establish an institutional framework to integrate planning across national, provincial and local government and other sectors. According to the Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Cabinet’s approval of the Bill

will ensure an integrated planning across government and fast track the implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP)⁸.

This Bill applies to all government planning, development, monitoring and evaluation in the national, provincial and local spheres of government, including public entities in terms of the Constitution.

The objectives of this bill are to amongst others⁹:

- establish the National Development Plan as the primary long-term plan and vision that must guide all government planning in the Republic;
- reaffirm the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation as the lead-coordinator of the integrated planning system for the whole of government;
- institutionalise the planning system across government and to provide an institutional and legal
- context for planning across government;
- ensure coordination, integration and alignment of planning between national, provincial and local spheres including public entities;
- ensure that planning and budgetary decisions contribute to the government's development objectives; and
- to give effect to the obligations of the country emanating from global, continental, and regional development goals and frameworks to which South Africa is party, such as the United Nations, the African Union and Southern African Development Community.

The Bill proposes a five-year implementation plan for the NDP to ensure focus on resourcing and immediate, short

and medium term deliverables in order to achieve the long term developmental goals of the NDP.

In addition, the Bill is also linked to Cabinet's decision to mandate the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) and National Treasury to develop an annual Budget Prioritisation Framework, known as the Mandate Paper. The paper aims at establishing a strategic framework for decision-making on budget priorities required to advance NDP goals. According to the DPME, this will ensure that the various national departments, provinces and local government align their budget with NDP goals.

The paper will also focus on three key levers of the NDP implementation, namely growing the economy; enhancing the capabilities of South Africans and building a capable State. The DPME will also produce a 25-year review document to inform the implementation of the next Medium Term Strategic Framework for the period 2019-2024.

8. Department of Home Affairs New Identification System



The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) has launched a new identification system called the Automated Biometric Identification

⁸ <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/integrated-planning-framework-bill-streamline-government%E2%80%99s-work>

⁹ Integrated Planning Framework Bill

System (ABIS)¹⁰. The new system forms an integral part of the Department's Modernisation Programme. The department had faced complaints from clients about waiting time at DHA offices. ABIS therefore will constitute vital components of the quest to reposition the Department of Home Affairs to meet people's expectations.

ABIS is a future-fit identification and security solution powered by sustainable technology and will offer a single view of citizen across the life cycle and their status change at various stages. The system is set to replace the Home Affairs National Identity System (HANIS) currently hosted by the department for the fingerprints system and which is manually operated and outdated.

The grand plan seeks to integrate HANIS and the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) into an automated system through ABIS with the capability to identify and verify people through fingerprints, facial recognition and IR technology. The ABIS is a fundamental baseline for the broader National Identification System that will consolidate South African and foreign nationals' data into a single base.

HANIS had numerous shortcomings ranging from offering only fingerprint based search; posed the risk of fraud in the verification of birth registration; has limitations on capability hardware; to being overly manual.

The developments were further informed by the need for integration within government. The department collaborated with the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster in launching of the ABIS project which will open pathways towards smarter platforms and new ways of delivering public services.

9. New Industrial Policy Action Plan



The government, through Department of Trade and Industry has released its 10th Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP) 2018¹¹, with a focus on deepening industrial development, radical economic transformation and increasing the ability to produce higher value-added products.

Minister of Trade and Industry, Rob Davies launched the 10th IPAP at a media briefing in Parliament on the 14th of May 2018. The Minister, during the briefing, highlighted that the new IPAP focuses on transversal and specific sectorial programmes. IPAP 2018 was designed to tackle the decline in South Africa's industrial and manufacturing capacity and transformation¹².

¹⁰ <http://www.home-affairs.gov.za/index.php/statements-speeches/1123-opening-speech-by-home-affairs-director-general-mkuseli-apleni-at-the-media-launch-of-the-automated-biometric-identification-system-abis-project-taj-hotel-cape-town-16-may-2018>

¹¹ <http://www.dti.gov.za/DownloadFileAction?id=1240>

¹² <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/new-ipa-help-government-raise-bar>

The core objective of the policy is transforming the racially skewed ownership, management and employment profile of the economy. The plan also outlines its goals of promoting labour-absorbing industries such as agro processing to eliminate corruption and collusion, as well as tightening up the procurement through secure compliance and verification. This is due to the fact that procurement is regarded as a critical policy tool that becomes even more critical when financial resources from the public coffers become more constrained.

The latest iteration of IPAP puts emphasis on stronger interventions to support transformation, led by the Flagship Black Industrialist Programme, which is inclusive of a bouquet of new and creative incentive measures set out in the incentives section. The IPAP focus areas are important in driving the growth of South Africa's industrial base and industrial policy needs to ensure that support for investment is integrated with support for transformation. The plan also stress that the industrial policy needs to be a policy of the entire government and that there is a need for the country to adapt to global trends such as the digital industrial revolution, energy and carbon mitigation and waste management.

The Minister highlighted the need for more structural changes so that more jobs could be created and South Africa could become more internationally competitive. The 10th IPAP has been welcomed by parliament. The new IPAP 2018 is accessible on the Department of Trade and Industry website http://www.dti.gov.za/industrial_development/industrial_development.jsp.

10. National Land Transport Amendment Bill passed by Parliament



transport

Department:
Transport
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The National Assembly has passed the National Land Transport Amendment Bill to regulate e-hailing services. The Bill has been sent to the National Council of Provinces for concurrence¹³. The Bill seeks to provide for non-motorised and accessible transport; bring the act up to date with recent developments; provide for powers at the provincial level to conclude contracts for public transport services; expand the powers of the Minister of Transport to make regulations and introduce safety measures and prescribe criteria and requirements for municipalities to enter into contracts for public transport services.

The Bill will further provide for and regulate hailing services to enable operators with an app as well as to empower the Minister of Transport to prescribe requirements, standards applicable and offences for the use of e-hailing technology enabled applications.

The Minister of Transport, Blade Nzimande emphasised that the Bill guarantees the much-needed stability between the metered taxis and the electronic hailing taxi industry that is currently being characterised by uncertainty, conflict and criminality. The department will further ensure that government consolidates systematically the

¹³ <http://www.sabinetlaw.co.za/transport/articles/national-land-transport-amendment-bill-sent-ncop>

transport function across the three spheres of government¹⁴.

Accordingly, the amendments to the Bill will ensure that government brings the South African transport trajectory in line with international best practices and Fourth Industrial Revolution. The Minister also indicated that the Bill will provide for temporary licences to be obtained “over the counter” by a shortened procedure from a delegated official or member of the regulatory entity and a shortened process on application to replace a vehicle specified in the operating licence.

In addition, clause 46 of the amendment act substitutes section 84 of the principal Act. According to clause 46, operating licences are only issued to accredited tourist transport operators and tour operators may use any vehicle for the tourist service as long as an operating licence is obtained and the vehicle complies with the requirements of the Act.

11. National Minimum Wage Bill



The South African government has taken concrete steps towards dealing with the gaping wage gap and moving towards a living wage. The National Assembly passed

the Minimum Wage Bill on the 29th of May 2018¹⁵. The Bill seeks to provide for a national minimum wage; to establish the National Minimum Wage Commission; to provide for the composition and functions of the National Minimum Wage Commission; to provide for the review and annual adjustment of the national minimum wage; to provide for exemption from paying the national minimum wage and to provide for transitional provisions in respect of farm workers and domestic workers.

The purpose of the Bill is to advance economic development and social justice by¹⁶:

- (a) improving the wages of lowest paid workers;
- (b) protecting workers from unreasonably low wages;
- (c) preserving the value of the national minimum wage;
- (d) promoting collective bargaining; and
- (e) supporting economic policy.

The Bill has set the first National Minimum Wage at R20.00 per hour and further established the National Minimum Wage Commission which will take over the functions of the current Employment Conditions Commission. The Commission will recommend annual adjustments to the level of the national minimum wage and review it on a regular basis in order to take into account the impact of the level on employment, collective bargaining, poverty and inequality.

The passing of the Bill, is significant in the sense that South Africa will be joining several countries around the world that have

¹⁴ <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/parliament-passes-bill-regulate-e-hailing-services>

¹⁵ <http://www.polity.org.za/article/bills-setting-minimum-wage-passed-in-parliament-2018-05-30>

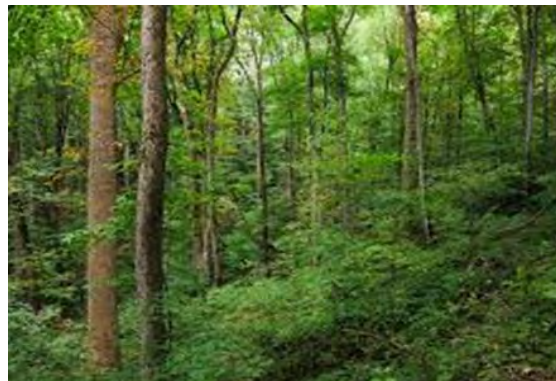
¹⁶ <http://www.labour.gov.za/DOL/media-desk/media-statements/2018/statement-on-the-endorsement-by-the-national-assembly-of-the-labour-bills-on-29-may-2018?searchterm=national+minimum+wage+bill>

implemented a national minimum wage as an instrument of economic and social development. The social partners had to ensure that the national minimum wage is set at a level that will yield a meaningful impact on the wages of the lowest paid workers, while guarding against any negative impact on employment. The Bill requires that every worker is entitled to a wage payment of an amount not less than the national minimum wage and that every employer must pay wages to its workers that is no less than the minimum wage. However, the Bill also makes provision for businesses that may be unable to afford the national minimum wage to apply for exemption.

This Bill applies to all workers and their employers except members of the South African National Defence Force, the National Intelligence Agency and the South African Secret Service. The Bill has been sent to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) for consideration and will be submitted to the President to assent.

The minimum wage for South Africa's hospitality sector was also revised upwards and will take effect from 01 July 2018. The new hospitality sectoral determination which governs minimum wage rate in the hospitality sector will be effective until 30 June 2019.

12. The National Forests Amendment Bill



The National Assembly approved the National Forests Amendment Bill on the 28th August 2018. The objectives of the Bill include amongst others the following¹⁷:

- To provide clear definitions of terms of natural forests and woodlands;
- Provide for public trusteeship of the nations' forestry resources
- Increase promotion and enforcement of sustainable forest management;
- Increase in measures to control and remedy deforestation;
- Provide for appeal procedures;
- Reinforces offenses and penalties; and
- Promote equity by inclusion of participation into the National Forests Advisory Council by vulnerable and previously disadvantaged groups (especially women and youth).

A significant number of poor people and vulnerable groups located mainly in rural areas of the country rely on forestry for their livelihoods. The proposed amendments therefore seek to assist in encouraging participation of vulnerable whilst ensuring sustainable forest management.

¹⁷ <https://pmg.org.za/bill/654/>

The National Forest Amendment Bill does not amend most of the provisions in the principal Act, however, it allows for the prohibition of mining activities in a state forest, except in terms of existing leases, other valid contracts or applicable legislation. Provisions in this section include amongst others, permitting the grazing or herding of animals, cultivating land, management of plantation, felling of trees etc., whilst ensuring sustainable management of forests.

Subsequently, Section 32 of the Act provides assistance for community forestry. Community forestry includes small scale plantation forestry by disadvantage persons due to unfair discrimination; establishment and maintenance of nurseries and other facilities; and provision of training, information, advice and material including financial assistance. The Bill was sent to the National Council of Provinces for concurrence.

13. The Gambling Amendment Bill



The Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Rob Davies, has introduced the National Gambling Amendment Bill to the National Assembly on the 21st of August 2018¹⁸. The

aim of the Bill is to amend amongst others the National Gambling Act of 2004 and to amend certain definitions; to transfer the regulation of bets on national lottery, foreign lottery, lottery results and sports pools to the National Lotteries Commission; to strengthen the regulation of casinos, limited pay-out machines and bingo; to provide for the procedure for the forfeiture of unlawful winnings to the National Gambling Regulator; to provide for the regulation of the horseracing industry; to provide for broad-based black economic empowerment in the gambling industry; and to provide for the repositioning of the National Gambling Board as a National Gambling Regulator.

The Bill further outlines the establishment of the National Gambling Regulator as a public entity and its responsibilities which are evaluation of licenses and compliance; conducting oversight evaluations; assisting provincial licensing authorities; and considering applications and motivations¹⁹.

In terms of promoting Broad-based economic empowerment in the gambling industry, the Bill makes provisions for all participants in the gambling industry to achieve Black Economic Empowerment.

The Bill also make provisions on the restrictions on gambling premises and location of automated tellers. Restrictions include different access entrances for gambling premises located in public places; separate shopping floors from general shopping floors in cases of multi storey building; and cash automated tellers to be invisible from the gambling floor.

¹⁸ <https://pmg.org.za/bill/827/>

¹⁹ National Gambling Amendment Bill

14. Draft National Ports Amendment Bill 2018



The Department of Transport has published the Draft National Ports Amendment Bill in the Government Gazette No 41731 for public comment. The draft bill aims to strengthen the powers of the Ports Regulator. The boosting of the powers of the Ports Regulator is in relation to the implementation, enforcement and redress with regards to decisions taken in terms of penalties. This includes enhancing the investigative powers of the Ports Regulator. The National Ports Act of 2005, which is being amended outlines numerous functions of the Ports Authority. These include planning, maintaining and improving port infrastructure; control land use within ports; maintain sustainability of ports and surroundings; and exercising licensing and control in respect of ports services.

LOCAL LEVEL DEVELOPMENTS

1. Knysna Tourism Launches New Campaign



Knysna Tourism in the Western Cape launched a new campaign to market the destination after the fire tragedy around June 2017²⁰. The fire caused a huge disaster at Knysna with over 300 properties being left damaged and thousands of people being housed in a community halls and other facilities across parts of the Western Cape.

The Knysna Tourism have launched new destination Campaign titled #SpiritofKnysna after one year of the Knysna fire. The campaign includes a two-minute destination video that was filmed in Knysna and Sedgefield, showcasing the lagoon, forest and beaches. Funds for the video were made available by the official Tourism, Trade and Investment Promotion Agency in Cape Town and Western Cape, Wesgro. The agency funded Knysna Tourism with R100 000 to market the town following the fires.

Knysna Tourism Chairperson, Elmay Boucher mentioned that the campaign is the next major step after the #KnysnaRises campaign, which was launched a week after

the fire broke out last year. The agency emphasised the need to begin sharing the magic of Knysna again with the world and market the greater Knysna area. The previous campaign messages were to show the world that Knysna is still open for business, despite the fires of June 7, 2017. The current message is to encourage people to come and experience the unique spirit that Knysna has demonstrated in rising above the trauma of the past year.

2. City of Ekurhuleni Integrated Development Plan 2016-2021. 2018/18 Review.



The City of Ekurhuleni reviewed their 2016/17-2020/21 Integrated Development Plan (IDP). Section 34 of the Municipal System Act of 2000, requires that an IDP of a municipality be reviewed annually on a basis of an assessment of its performance measures and to the extent that changing circumstances demand²¹.

The Ekurhuleni IDP identified the Ekurhuleni Aerotropolis Project, one of the City Wide Flagship Projects. The project seeks to explore interventions that leverage the economic benefits of having the busiest airport on the African continent, the OR Tambo International Airport, located within Ekurhuleni's boundaries. Given that the OR Tambo International Airport resides within its municipal jurisdiction, the City of Ekurhuleni and the Gauteng Provincial Government need to plan accordingly for

²⁰ <http://www.tourismupdate.co.za/article/181133/Knysna-Tourism-launches-new-campaign/10>

²¹ <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/3214-idp-budget-2018-19-2020-21-annexure-a-city-of-ekurhuleni-integrated-development-plan-2016-2021/file>

any development related to this asset, to unlock its value proposition and position the region as a globally competitive one.

In the main, the Ekurhuleni Aerotropolis 25 Year Master Plan has reached an important milestone where the critical development opportunities related to envisioned Aerotropolis activities have been preliminarily defined, scaled, and located. The 25 Year Master Plan has been approved by Council.

Furthermore, one of the strategic objective for the term is to protect the natural environment and promote resources sustainability. Some of the initiatives that will be rolled out during this term includes:

- Development of parks;
- Renewable/Alternative energy;
- Implement recycling programme;
- Waste minimization;
- Keep Ekurhuleni Clean programme;
- Protection of natural resources;
- Pollution control; and
- Urban management.

3. Nelson Mandela Bay Integrated Development Plan(IDP) 2016-2021. 2018/19 Review.



The Executive Mayor of Nelson Mandela Bay(NMB) Municipality established the Strategic Planning Steering Committee to oversee the planning and implementation

processes of the 2018/19 IDP / Budget public participation programme.

The NMB Municipality IDP review process was subjected to public participation process which also prioritised consultation with key sectors that are significant role players in the economy of Nelson Mandela Bay, namely SMMEs and the manufacturing, automotive, construction, Green Economy, Ocean Economy, tourism, agriculture, transport and services sectors.

The NMBM's IDP is anchored on six pillars; the foundations on which the Municipality's developmental priorities are hinged. The six pillars are as follows²².

- Safe City
- Opportunity City
- Inclusive City
- Well-run City
- Forward Thinking City and
- Caring City.

Tourism sector is impacted by the pillar on Opportunity City. The objectives of the Opportunity City pillar in the Nelson Mandela Bay strives to:

- Grow and diversify the local economy through the attraction of new investment, skills development and facilitation of an enabling environment for small business growth and job creation.
- Facilitate and promote infrastructure led growth, development and tourism.

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<http://www.nelsonmandelabay.gov.za/datarepository/documents/nmbm-integrated-development-plan-idp-second-edition-2018-19.pdf>

The Nelson Mandela Bay's six pillars of action are aligned with national and provincial policy and planning frameworks.

4. Mpumalanga's Barberton Makhonjwa Mountain land named World Heritage Site



The Barberton Makhonjwa Mountains have been officially declared, on the 02nd of July 2018, a United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) World Heritage Site (WHS)²³.

The declaration of Barberton Makhonjwa Mountains makes it the tenth site in South Africa to be inscribed by the world heritage body since South Africa became a member in 1997. The recognition allows the country to access funds for conservation from the World Heritage Fund and may increase tourism in the area.

The mountain range lies within the sub-tropical lowland region in the north-east of South Africa, containing some of the world's best preserved, oldest and diverse sequence of volcanic and sedimentary rock, dating back to 3,5 billion years. It features meteor-impact fall back breccias resulting from the impact of meteorites formed just after the Great Bombardment (4.6 to 3.8 billion years ago), which are particularly well preserved²⁴.

²³ <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1575>

²⁴ As cited in Unesco

REGIONAL VISA AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

1. Tanzania reviews tourism policy



The government of Tanzania is in a process of reviewing the country's 1999 Tourism Policy in a bid to attract private investors for tourism²⁵. The tourism sector in Tanzania is mainly dependent on wildlife. In reviewing the policy, government and stakeholders proposes an expansion to include Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE).

The policy also focuses on product development; human resource development; infrastructure development; enabling business environment; community participation; quality of products and services; and research.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Tourism in Tanzania will be establishing a Tanzania National Convention Bureau to oversee the development of MICE tourism.

2. Kenya Airways and Air Mauritius expand partnership



Kenya Airways has extended their codeshare agreement with Air Mauritius and signed a reciprocal agreement. The signing was followed by the launch of Kenya Airways routes to Mauritius from the 07th of June 2018. The results of the expanded cooperation will now see Air Mauritius now codeshare, as a marketing carries, on all Kenya Airways operated flights between Nairobi and Mauritius²⁶.

²⁵ <http://allafrica.com/view/group/main/main/id/00061286.html>

²⁶ <http://aviationtribune.com/airlines/africa/air-mauritius-and-kenya-airways-expand-their-cooperation/>

3. Uganda revive national carrier



The Ugandan government has announced its plan to revive the country's national carrier²⁷. Currently Entebbe international airport, the only international airport in Uganda, is being expanded to handle more passengers and cargo. In addition, a second airport is planned in the western region of the country in order to service the area that is being boosted by an emerging crude oil industry.

Regional carrier giants Kenya Airways, Ethiopian Airlines and South African Airways dominate Uganda's air travel business. The announcement is aligned to Uganda's plan to share in the region's growing aviation business and invigorate its services sector.

4. Zimbabwe Ease Visa Policy for Chinese Tourists



The government of Zimbabwe reviewed the country's visa regime to improve the tourism industry. The review led to a decision to reduce visa restrictions for Chinese tourists entering the country as of 1 July 2018, in an effort to ease travel and boost inbound tourism²⁸.

The Zimbabwe migration management system comprises a three-tier visa model classified into categories A, B and C. Category A refers to countries whose nationals are exempt from visa requirements while those in category B obtain visas at the port of entry, that is on arrival, while category C nationals are required to apply for visas prior to travel. China will be migrating from a Category C in Zimbabwe's migration management system, to a Category B. The relaxation is not only limited to China but extends to 36 other countries, including Equatorial Guinea, Iran, Algeria, Turkey and Cuba.

²⁷ <http://www.africanews.com/2018/06/07/uganda-s-president-yoweri-museveni-says-to-revive-national-airline//>

²⁸ <http://www.tourismupdate.co.za/article/181215/Zimbabwe-woos-Chinese-tourists-with-visa-relaxation>

5. Botswana withdraws from RETOSA



The Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa (RETOSA) is responsible for tourism growth, development as well as marketing across Southern African member states. It also facilitates and promotes the development of equitable and ethical tourism throughout the region. Botswana has withdrawn from RETOSA, in April 2018, hardly eight months after being voted as the organisation's chair²⁹.

Botswana's decision to withdraw from RETOSA comes at a time when the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat in Gaborone has said Botswana has agreed to fully support and actively assist RETOSA to establish partnerships and secure resources from international cooperating partners towards a tourism destination marketing strategy.

6. Mauritius Declaration adopted at international conference



For many countries tourism is a major economic pillar and an important source of foreign currency earnings. Governments across the world are leveraging on tourism as an engine of economic growth. The International Conference on Digitalisation and Sustainable Tourism was held on 23-24 May 2018 and brought together high level policy makers including Ministers of Tourism, CEOs of Tourism Boards, specialists, academics and experts to reflect on the challenges and opportunities of digitalisation for the tourism industry. The Aim of the conference was to discuss the challenges and opportunities of digitalisation for the global tourism industry. The Conference concluded with the adoption of the Mauritius Declaration on Digitalisation and Sustainable Tourism³⁰.

Recommendations put forward in the Declaration include:

- The creation of a Working Group on Digital Platforms.

²⁹ <http://www.tourismupdate.co.za/article/180771/Botswana-withdraws-from-RETOSA>

³⁰ <http://www.tourismupdate.co.za/article/180591/Mauritius-adopts-tourism-declaration-at-international-conference>

- Development of a sustainable and diverse tourism industry, reskilling the workforce in line with policies of creating environmentally friendly tourism.
- Rigorous application of ‘green ICT’ techniques to ensure minimal environmental impacts.
- The implementation of geo-informatic technology for use in conservation, particularly of marine environments.
- The development of national frameworks for the regulation of private information in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union.
- The promotion of cultural heritage.

7. Airlines sign MOU to increase Indian Ocean islands connectivity



Air Austral and Air Madagascar have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kenya Airways in Antananarivo, Madagascar³¹. The three airlines are dedicated in developing codeshare agreements and increase connectivity options, as well as offer a wide range of

³¹ <http://www.tourismupdate.co.za/article/182344/Airlines-sign-MOU-to-increase-Indian-Ocean-islands-connectivity/15>

services to their customers. The goal of the MoU is to improve access to the Indian Ocean islands.

8. South Africa signs African Continental Free Trade Area agreement



South Africa has signed the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement with the African Union, which will pave the way for the country to benefit from inter-regional trade within the African continent³². The President signed the agreement during the AU Summit that took place from 1-2 July 2018 in the Republic of Mauritania under the theme “Winning the Fight against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa’s Transformation.”

The main objectives of the AfCFTA are to:

- Create a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of business persons and investments;
- Accelerate the establishment of the Customs Union;
- Expand intra-African trade through better harmonization and coordination of trade liberalisation and facilitation and

³² <https://albertonrecord.co.za/181517/south-africa-signs-african-continental-free-trade-area-afcfta-agreement/>

instruments across the RECs and across Africa in general and

- Enhance competitiveness at the industry and enterprise level through exploitation of opportunities for scale production,

GLOBAL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

1. Digital Transformation & Innovation Take Spotlight on World Tourism Day 2018



The UNWTO world tourism day official celebrations took place in Hungary focusing on the digital transformation in tourism, a UNWTO priority. The event looked at how investment in new technology provides the sector with opportunities for innovation. The conference concluded that political support is central to putting tourism at the centre of the global innovation and digital agenda.

2. WTTC partners with IATA to boost biometrics use



The World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) have agreed to partner to achieve the benefits of biometrics and deliver traveller digital identity management throughout the Travel

& Tourism sector for a seamless passenger experience³³. The agreement was announced on the side-lines of the IATA Annual General Meeting in Sydney, Australia, on 4 June 2018.

This means that the two organisations will adopt a common approach, exchange information and work together to energise the entire sector to achieve international harmonisation through the use of biometrics standards and interoperability.

The WTTC noted that the IATA's "One ID" initiative is aimed at developing a seamless, end to end passenger processing experience while its own "Seamless Traveller Journey" program is intended to promote biometric and digital traveller identity for the passenger journey, suggesting these projects could be merged going forward.

3. African Tourism Ministers Stress the Importance of Correct Tourism Measurement for Improved Policy



The 61st Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for Africa took place from the 4th -6th June 2018 in Abuja, Nigeria. The meeting included a ministerial dialogue on the importance of tourism statistics under the topic "Better measure, better manage". The ministerial section addressed the importance of collecting and compiling

³³ <https://www.4hoteliers.com/news/story/18359>

quantitative and qualitative data, as well as the importance of commitments from national stakeholders and institutional partnerships for a tourism statistics system.

The UNWTO Commission for Africa was attended by 18 tourism ministers from the region and key tourism stakeholders from 36 countries. Participants highlighted how tourism projects can contribute to poverty alleviation, the importance of finding innovative approaches to developing tourism in the region, and the need to find and foster new partnerships and resources to develop the sector.

The meeting addressed the need for establishing a Statistical Framework for the Measurement of Sustainable Tourism (MST) was addressed. This Framework includes environmental, social and cultural tourism components geared towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development³⁴.

4. Ukraine visa services now available in South Africa



³⁴ <http://www2.unwto.org/press-release/2018-06-05/african-tourism-ministers-stress-importance-correct-tourism-measurement-imp>

³⁵ <https://insidetravel.news/ukraine-visa-services-now-available-in-south-africa/>

Visa processing operation services for Ukraine have been substantially expanded across the African continent³⁵. Two new Ukraine Visa Application Centers have been opened in Pretoria and Cape Town.

The new Ukraine Visa Application Centers offer applicants a number of services including SMS tracking of visa application, dedicated website for information, email assistance along with photocopying and photobooth.

5. UN deputy launches powerful tool for least developed countries



Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), launched a unique policy compendium in Geneva on 6 June 2018 that aims to assist governments of the world's most disadvantaged countries in boosting prosperity and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals³⁶.

³⁶ <http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1772>

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) – synthesizes nearly 15 years of UNCTAD research and policy options in a single resource that links potential development objectives with concrete steps and practical actions to achieve specific targets of the global goals.

The Deputy Secretary-General of the UN welcomed this UNCTAD compendium as a powerful resource for countries working to achieve the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, and for their development partners worldwide.

6. UNWTO launches an Online Platform to achieve SDGs through Tourism



The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) with the support of the Switzerland State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) developed an online tool to advance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through tourism³⁷. The main objective of the Tourism SDGs platform is to promote a greater engagement of the tourism sector with

sustainable development. The aim of the SDGs is to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice and solve climate change by 2030.

The Tourism SDGs.org is a co-creative space that allows users to access a wide range of resources; add their own initiatives; findings and projects; motivate discussions and collaboration as well as sharing content related to tourism and sustainable development. The platform's three main features are Learn, Share and Act. The three levels of interaction aim not only to educate but also to encourage conversation and collaboration towards a sustainable tourism sector.

The 17 SDGs constitute an ambitious global agenda for people, planet, prosperity and peace through partnerships. The UNWTO Secretary General, Zurab Pololikashvili, indicated that tourism plays a vital role in many, if not all, of the 17 goals. Tourism has been identified as a cross-cutting economic activity with deep social ramifications and the Tourism for SDGs platform is providing the global tourism community with a space to co-create and engage the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

³⁷ <http://media.unwto.org/press-release/2018-07-23/unwto-launches-online-platform-achieve-sdgs-through-tourism>

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