



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY:

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Mr J Vos (DA) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

Whether, he (a) called for any impact assessments of the new visa regulations on tourism and (b) conducted consultations with relevant stakeholders from the tourism sector; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO2568E

REPLY:

a) As Minister of Tourism my job is to do everything possible to ensure the continued growth of tourism for the benefit of all its stakeholders. Tourism contributes 1.5 million direct and indirect jobs, more than the mining sector. Tourism is indeed the new gold. We should treat tourism as a national treasure, which needs to be protected, nurtured and developed.

Honourable Vos is well aware of the commitment made by the President in the State of the Nation Address that *“To attract foreign skills for our growing economy, we will invite dialogue with various stakeholders on the Migration Policy. We will also prioritise the review of visa regulations to strike a balance between national security and growth in tourism.”*

The Honourable Member is also aware that, at its meeting on 10 June, Cabinet was appraised of the implementation of new measures, noted the views expressed by various sectors and resolved to set up a team of Ministers from both the economic and security

clusters. *“The team is expected to discuss and engage with the concerns with the aim of finding ways to address the unintended consequences brought about by the implementation of the regulations.”*

I have repeatedly briefed the portfolio committee on my engagement with the sector and the Honourable Member is aware that the Tourism Business Council of South Africa, its members and other role players such as IATA have been making written and verbal representations on this matter which, quite frankly, is not a matter for the political soap box. We have a shared responsibility as political parties to ensure that we do what is best for our country and I would appeal to all parties to desist from combative engagement, repeating proposals that actually emanate from the industry and not the DA.

- b) Yes indeed, the Department is taking the decision of Cabinet last week very seriously and I will continue to engage with and listen to the concerns of the sector. I will share these concerns with my colleagues in the special committee, which will be considering the unintended consequences of the new measures, bearing in mind the good intentions of securing the interests of the state and acting against child trafficking.