



MINISTRY
TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MEDIA STATEMENT

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MINISTER SADDENED BY TRAGIC DEATH AT EL NIGHTCLUB

Tourism Minister Lindiwe Sisulu has heard the news of the tragic death of over 22 young people in East London with grief and deep concern. Her heart goes out especially to the mothers, fathers and loved ones who've lost the light and hopes represented in these young lives.

Since we hosted the 2010 Soccer World Cup, South Africa has become an important destination for leisure. People from across the world, especially the youth, come to South Africa, especially to our townships, to experience and enjoy our culture, the warmth and vibrancy of our people, youth and music. This tragic incident, which is now being reported by international news platforms, requires that we pay attention.

While it is too early to draw any conclusions, we must be concerned about the safety of our venues, and especially our young people. In this regard, Minister Sisulu is in communication with her counterparts in order to build an understanding and a response to this painful and regrettable incident.

In her capacity as chairperson of the social transformation committee of the governing party, Minister Sisulu has already been in contact with some party leaders in East London who have already visited the place, and received a report. She will travel to East London at the earliest possible opportunity.

“As a mother, my heart breaks as I imagine the anguish visited upon the parents of these young people. As a leader, my immediate concern must be to provide a proper understanding of this moment, and how we can support those affected”, said the Minister.

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