



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY:

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“Mr J A Esterhuizen (IFP) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

Whether he has found that fear of the Ebola virus is responsible for tourist cancelling their trips to the country; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what is his department doing to assure tourists that every precaution has been taken to ensure their safety from this dread virus whilst they are on holiday?”

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REPLY:

Currently there is no empirical evidence of a decline in tourist arrivals to the country. However, we are receiving anecdotal reports from various players in our value chain that point to cancellations. Although verified Statistics South Africa data are not yet available for the relevant period, we are constantly monitoring the situation and actively participating in the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Ebola. Moreover, we are actively communicating the message that South Africa is far from the epicenter and that our country has not had a single case of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

It may be of interest to note that, according to the latest Quarterly Tourism Business Council of South Africa index (released in October 2014) the tourism sector remains buoyant and shows an improved performance.