**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 1**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

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***PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES***

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The Council met at 14:00.

The Chairperson took the Chair and requested members to

observe a moment of silence for prayers or meditation.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: In keeping with our tradition and

practice, allow me to begin by bowing to my right and bowing

to my left. Hon delegates, before we proceed I would like to

remind you of the following; that the virtual sitting

constitutes a sitting of the National Council of Provinces,

that the place of the sitting is deemed to be Cape Town where

the sitting of the National Council of Provinces is, that

delegates in the virtual platform enjoy the same powers and

privileges that apply in a sitting of the National Council of

Provinces, that for the purpose of a quorum all delegates who

are locked in the virtual platform shall be considered



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 2**

present, that delegates must switch on their videos if they

want to speak, that the delegates should ensure that the

microphones gadgets are muted and must always remain muted,

that the interpretation facility is active and that any

delegate who wishes to speak must use the “raise your hand”

function or icon. Having said that, hon delegates, I have been

informed that there will be no Notices of Motion or Motions

Without Notice. We will proceed to the order of the day but

before I proceed to the order, I will like to take this

opportunity to welcome the Minister and Deputy Minister of

Tourism, MECs and all the special delegates to the House. May

I now call upon hon Lindiwe Sisulu, the Minister of Tourism to

open the debate.

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

(Policy debate)

Vote No 38 – Tourism:

The MINISTER OF TOURISM: Chairperson of the NCOP, Amos

Masondo, chairperson and members of the Select Committee on

Tourism, hon members of the NCOP, members of Executive

Councils and the SA Local Government Association, Salga,



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 3**

members of the SA Tourism board in attendance, the industry

has been through possibly the most difficult period of its

time. But the most amazing thing about this industry is that

we made it through all the hardship. Both in its orientation

and its mind-set, it was able to carry itself through this

drastic period. Its resilience is there for all to see, and I

would now like to be the first to congratulate the industry

and the board I am grateful to the people of South Africa that

kept it on its feet. This is not to undermine the fact that

the greater tourism and hospitality sector is still reeling

from the effects of the pandemic and the resultant

restrictions occasioned by COVID-19. We were no doubt the

hardest hit industry and yet, the pandemic also taught us

about the ability of our people to rise above their

circumstances and work together with the government to

navigate our way through this difficult period.

Today as we give this Budget Vote to the NCOP, we remember all

the people who passed away, many passed away from COVID-19 and

the floods in KwaZulu-Natal. A great number of our industry

has been badly affected and it is our intention to support

them to get back on their feet. I want to thank particularly

at this point those members of the industry who came together

and volunteered their support and guided us through the trauma



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 4**

of COVID-19. These various committees, calling themselves the

war rooms, provided me with valuable insight into how we can

find our way through our situations. Their magnanimity and

generosity are unique features of our South African

characteristics, and I am proud of the support they gave, free

of charge, to help us navigate the storm. I would like to

thank also the SA Tourism board and the various entities

reporting to it throughout this difficult period. They

provided us with immediate post-trauma relief that made it

possible for us to bounce back. To the board and its entities,

my sincerest gratitude. My sincerest gratitude to you in this

House and the select committee of this House. In the dawn of

our freedom, tourism and South Africa are synonymous. From a

meagre 3,9 million arrivals in 1994, we now have over

10,2 million international tourists visiting our shores in

2019.

We have seen steady growth in tourism to South Africa, earning

our place in the dynamic and competitive global tourism space.

In our speech in the National Assembly, we spoke about the

value of tourism in the South African economy. In 2019, the

travel and tourism sector, directly and indirectly,

contributed R363,2 billion to our economy, which makes up 6,9%

of the total economy, and over 1,4 million jobs which is an



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 5**

8,9% share of the country’s total employment statistics in

2019. In 2020, the total of jobs that we earned brought us up

to 6,5 % of the employment rate. This contribution is not

negligible, hon members. Travel and tourism are important

drivers for job creation across the world as globally, 1 in 10

jobs are created in the industry.

Added to the devastation to tourism brought on by COVID-19, I

need not remind the hon members of the impact that global

travel bans that were imposed on us. These travel bans and

‘red lists’ have done a considerable amount of damage to us

and we saw a massive decline in foreign arrivals and revenue,

which in turn led to some losses in key tourism products and

services, affecting gains made over the years to diversify

South Africa’s tourism offering, with particularly painful

losses to the SMME sector that negatively impact on our

struggle for broad-based economic transformation in this

sector.

However, domestic travel contributed positively to demand

during the COVID-19 period, driven by campaigns and pricing

targeted at our domestic market. This was positive and helped

us create a better understanding of the market and through

this exposure propelled the market to diversify its offerings.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 6**

We have acted decisively to restore confidence in the greater

tourism and hospitality sector to overcome the global

challenges resulting from COVID-19. And the South African

tourism industry is already seeing improved traveller

confidence. During our participation at the 24th United

Nations World Tourism Organization, UNWTO, General Assembly in

Madrid, we successfully lobbied the World Tourism Organization

to back South Africa and other African states and called on

the world to reopen their borders. The General Assembly saw

countries from all global regions expressing their solidarity

with Southern African states, calling for the immediate

lifting of travel bans and for freedom of international travel

to be upheld. I was pleased to hear the organisation

announcing that imposing blanket restrictions on travel was

discriminatory, stigmatising, ineffective and contrary to

World Health Organization recommendations. This sort of

support does wonders for tourism not just in South Africa, but

in the Southern African Development Community, SADC, region as

a whole.

Key interventions we spearheaded to get the sector moving

again and reignite demand include; One, championing the

removal of the “red listing” which, as I have indicated, was

backed by an international organisation, also the “red



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 7**

listing” of South Africa through diplomatic efforts as well;

Furthermore, through structured engagement with the sector,

tourism has been able to make a case for its readiness to

operate safely and this has yielded good results; South Africa

secured a seat at the United Nations World Tourism

Organization’s Executive Council which is the highest

decision-making body between the United Nations General

Assembly and also various countries; We successfully lobbied

the UNWTO to back African states and call on the world to

reopen their borders; Sponsored a framework for the

establishment of the Africa Tourism Unit for the African Union

Commission in a way that was closely followed by a regional

collaboration and synchronisation of policy including the

memorandum of understanding signed with Kenya here in South

Africa during the Kenyan President’s visit; We held bilateral

engagements with key Investors in the United Arab Emirates,

UAE, and the Gulf Co-operation Council Region who have shown

interest to invest in tourism mega projects in South Africa,

this was during a successful international expo in Dubai in

which we participated; Supportive interventions led by the

Ministry and SA Tourism to reconnect Destination South Africa

through air service development working through

multistakeholder public and private sector structures; We see

growing interest in investment in tourism now, demonstrated by



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 8**

investors from the gulf region when we engaged them during the

Dubai Expo in December 2021.

We also negotiated with Emirates during that period which we

finally signed off during our attendance at the Arabian Travel

Market two weeks ago with much fanfare, and we hope that

journalist Ferial Haffajee has grown up now, in all the time

she has known us she should know we are nowhere near what she

has tried to imply that we had gone to the UAE to see the

Guptas. We are glad that the President went to the Dubai Expo

after our visit and fortunately we have not seen any headlines

that he was running after the Guptas. But we had a good time

out there and we were able to display all of those things

South Africa is known for, the vibrancy of our culture and all

of those things that would attract people to us. We are

finalising deliberations on the memorandum of understanding

with Qatar which will be hosting the World Cup this year to

work together as we are a former successful host of the FIFA

World Cup ourselves and further collaborate in other areas of

importance for tourism growth. We are hoping to be a hub for

those attending the Soccer World Cup in Qatar. The Middle East

is a critical market for South Africa, so these collaborations

will be instrumental in ensuring ease of access to and from

South Africa for travellers from this region and will assist



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 9**

us in elevating the relationship that we have and our trade

efforts, hopefully, we will ride on the back of this.

Despite the hardship, we did have these successes. We were

encouraged by the Airports Company South Africa’s announcement

earlier this week that passenger numbers across all our

airports are showing steady growth and recovery for

international and domestic travel with a 48% recovery in

passenger numbers for the financial year ending in March 2022.

This steady rebound is good for the aviation sector and very

good for tourism. South Africa’s tourism sector refused to be

paralysed by the obstacles thrown in its way. In the spirit of

our people who have risen to the challenge of every obstacle,

we have focused on the dream of a diverse, inclusive and

transformed sector. With our partners, private and public, we

spent these dark times imagining a brighter future,

stabilising the sector and strategizing recovery in line with

the Tourism Sector Recovery Plan. We set the tone for

collective recovery of the sector after 19 months of travel

restrictions when South Africa hosted the African Travel and

Tourism Summit last year on 21 September which afforded the

African tourism community and its global friends to create a

clear recovery pathway forward. We have implemented projects

to ensure that we protect and rejuvenate the supply and these



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 10**

include; Publishing the norms and standards for the safe

operation in the sector, as well as providing training within

the sector on these; We implemented the tourism infrastructure

maintenance programme in key tourism assets as well as

finalising the Baviaanskloof Interpretative Centre and Leopard

Trail.

The Tourism Infrastructure Maintenance Programme refurbishes

existing state-owned tourism assets and we would like to make

sure that we can give protection to all the national and

provincial assets, the botanical gardens are some of these

heritage sites and all of those things. We implemented

initiatives to mobilise resources through investment

promotion, and our comprehensive sector skills development

programme was rolled out to ensure that relevant skills are

available as the sector recovers. On World Tourism Day we

celebrated the industry by hosting the first-ever African

Travel and Tourism Summit at the world-class interpretive

centre in Clarens, a truly beautiful place and I would like to

invite all members to try to find their way to Clarens, it is

truly a beautiful place. We went to the Northern Cape

thereafter to have consultations about Credo Mutwa’s heritage

and its tourism prospects in a dignified and respectful

manner, rather than commercial exploitation of the legendary



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 11**

heritage that he has brought to us. We are now looking at all

tourism assets of state entities to look at whether we can

take over and revamp them. We can assist the Vaal community to

revive the beautiful scenic picnic areas is just one example

of what we want to do immediately.

We have had the most magnificent entry into the new normal

with the launch of SA Tourism’s Global Advocacy Programme, the

most vibrant advert ‘Live Again’ I would like you to watch

this and I hope that it will be played on our screens tonight,

which has captured our resilience, we were able to live again

after a long lockdown. The day after that we hosted Meetings

Africa with almost every country on the continent displaying

its tourism potential. Soon thereafter, we concluded two

successful trade shows beginning with the Africa Travel Week

at the convention centre in Cape Town. We just had the most

spectacular Indaba in Durban, we brought in international

buyers from around the world and created much-needed revenue

for the industry and the people of KwaZulu-Natal that had just

been battered by the floods. So indeed, we live again after

COVID-19. We live to get better every day. Through our various

campaigns focused on the domestic market to encourage South

Africans to enjoy the beauty and heritage of our home and what

it has to offer, the turnaround in the performance of the



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 12**

sector is now well on its way although from a low base, is

apparent for all to see that we are living again. Most sector

performance indicators we are measuring showed an upturn in

the year 2021. It is this glimmer of hope that strengthens our

resolve to do, even more, to plant more seeds that will see

tourism growth beyond the 2019 levels.

The Constitution stipulates that the responsibility of tourism

is shared between the three spheres of government to ensure

that there are enough resources to facilitate tourism

development. While such efforts have gone into capacitating

the national and provincial tiers of government in terms of

tourism development, the local sphere in some areas of the

country still lags far behind. This leads to uneven tourism

development in the country. And I would like that we look at

this together to see how we can, together, get to the lowest

level, the third level to the standard of the other two. The

Department of Tourism leads co-ordination at the national

level whilst the provinces are responsible for co-ordination

at a provincial level and to provide support for the

establishment of district/local structures, local government

is there and has to designate resources to enable the proper

co-ordination at that particular level. The Tourism Sector

Recovery Plan is a collaborative sector plan worked out



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 13**

jointly between our tourism players and we adopted it in the

Cabinet in April 2021 as part of the country’s overall

economic recovery from the pandemic and to ensure recovery of

the tourism sector including economic growth that goes with it

and job creation. We have thousands of SMMEs throughout our

townships and rural areas and small dorpies [towns] offering

authentic creative experiences throughout our tourism value

chain and throughout our townships.

These SMMEs are crucial for our goal of inclusive sustainable

tourism and help spread the benefits of tourism to communities

outside of the traditional tourism hotspots. The Enterprise

Development and Transformation Programme form part of the key

strategy aimed at introducing new players in the tourism

economy and achieving the transformation objectives we have in

this country. It focuses on various subsectors in the tourism

value chain and has been implemented over a few years already.

It supports the growth of tourism enterprises in a manner that

promotes inclusive participation and job creation that

contributes to the competitiveness of tourism destinations. We

will monitor the implementation of the norms and standards for

safe operation in the tourism sector across the value chain to

enable safe travel and rebuild consumer confidence in us. The

department currently has projects in various stages of



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 14**

development across all nine provinces, aimed at benefitting

communities in areas with rich tourism potential. We have been

deliberate in the identification of these projects, including

those that are near major entrances to the Kruger National

Park, in an effort to extend the benefits of these assets to

those communities living outside of the parks, for example,

the Numbi Gate.

The Dinosaur Interpretative Centre in Clarens which is

currently under construction will be a state-of-the-art

interpretive centre there. It will serve as an iconic tourist

attraction modelled on the narrative interpretation of the

paleontological, archaeological, and geological evidence found

at the Golden Gate Highlands National Park in the Free State

province. This addition will enhance and extend the heritage

tourism offering of the Free State, as well as nearby tourism

establishments and businesses. The department has in previous

years completed several destination planning projects in

support of and collaboration with the provinces and local

municipalities. These include the Wild Coast masterplan and

the three masterplans in the Northern Cape. These regions were

selected as some of the most economically depressed in the

country, as well as least serviced and least visited. We have

also completed several precinct planning exercises in support



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 15**

of local municipalities, including Khayelitsha, Carnavon,

Mdantsane, Galeshewe and Port St Johns etc. Subsequent to

this, the department has completed the following planning

work; Tourism concept development for clustered experiences

within the completed masterplan areas. These concepts comprise

more detailed technical planning, and I am certain that the

select committee has applied its mind to this and we have now

put this in our planning cycle. The concepts seek to identify

potential community based/owned products, as well as

potentially privately-owned developments, including investment

opportunities etc.

Gaps in services and infrastructure are also identified for

attention, and I am glad that I am speaking in the National

Chamber of Provinces today because we need your help to ensure

that we can make the relevant input as the relevant sphere of

government is the local government sphere. Concepts have been

completed to include the Magwa Tea Estate and Waterfalls,

Orange River Mouth and the Karoo etc. As a contribution to the

implementation of the precincts plans has been completed, the

department has completed other technical design work for the

following areas; an amphitheatre in the Mdantsane Township. We

also want to make sure that we have Places of Remembrance like

in Galeshewe. We want to make sure there is public seating and



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 16**

eating arrangements in Khayelitsha. We want to make sure that

temporary market stalls in Vilakazi Street, Soweto are

upgraded and supported. We want to make sure that there are

permanent points of sale and arts and craft workspaces,

especially in places like Galeshewe in Soweto and various

other places. At the beginning of this administration, the

estimates were that South Africa would attract 16,5 million

arrivals by 2030, and if the status quo remained the same, a

pre-COVID-19 period target was set for 21 million tourists by

2030.

The pandemic significantly affected this, as can be expected,

but we hope to get back to this. And the projection now stands

at 14,8 million arrivals by 2030. We hope that we will be able

to rise beyond the projection. We remain committed to our

efforts to enhance regional and continental tourism co-

operation. And as I conclude, Chairperson, I would like to

thank you all for the opportunity you have given me, and I

would like to thank you all for the support that you have

given me to get to where we are. We promise to give our best

to ensure we get to our pre-COVID-19 levels of tourism. Thank

you very much, Chairperson, for the time you have given me.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 17**

Mr M I RAYI: Hon Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP,

House Chairpersons, Chief Whip, hon Minister, hon Deputy

Minister, MECs present, permanent delegates, special delegates

and fellow South Africans, while we are optimistic about the

future of the Tourism sector, we cannot fail to acknowledge

the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic had devastating effects in

the lives of many and it altered all our lives in a way we

never imagined. In the period just before the onset of the

COVID-19 pandemic, the tourism sector in South Africa created

1,5 million jobs and contributed R425,8 billion to the gross

domestic product, GDP. The sector also represented 8,6% of all

economic activity in the country, which made South Africa the

largest tourism economy in Africa.

A report released by Statistics SA revealed that foreign

arrivals dropped by 71% from just over 15,8 million in 2019 to

less than five million in 2020. It is evident that the COVID-

19 pandemic impacted the tourism industry quite hard around

the world and in South Africa, mainly due to the lockdown and

travel restrictions that were imposed.

According to the United Nations World Tourism Organisation the

global pandemic, first of its scale in a new era of

interconnectedness has put 100 million jobs at risk, many in



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 18**

micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises that employ a high

share of women, who represent 54% of the tourism workforce.

The economic reconstruction and recovery plan reaffirms

tourism’s position as a major contributor to the South African

economy and its envisaged role in the broader economic

reconstruction and recovery effort. The tourism sector

recovery plan gives life and meaning to the tourism sector’s

role through seven strategic interventions and a further set

of key enablers such as forming targeted, strategic

partnerships between government and industry, partnering with

relevant departments to ensure improved travel facilitation

through the implementation of e-visas, tourist safety, airlift

capacity and quicker turnaround times in the processing of

tour operator licences, deployment of the vaccine to frontline

workers, attainment of population immunity and participating

in global efforts to facilitate safe travel, and stimulating

domestic demand through government consumption expenditure.

The tourism recovery plan envisaged that together, the

interventions and enablers outlined in the plan would

facilitate the preservation of R189 billion of value, help the

sector to recover to its 2019 output and employment levels by

2023, as well as position the sector for long-term sustainable



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 19**

growth. Furthermore, the implementation of the plan can reduce

the impact of the COVID -19 crisis on employment by 125 000

jobs.

Hon Chairperson, I’m sure we can all attest that the measures

put in place by the plan have assisted the sector to get back

on its feet. Our government’s COVID-19 containment measures

coupled with the steadfast rollout of the vaccination

programme have indeed yielded the intended results.

Collaborative efforts in all spheres of government, its

entities, private sector and civil society proved to be a

powerful tool which we can use to combat any crisis we find

ourselves in.

In his state of the nation address, President Cyril Ramaphosa

mentioned a number of interventions that have a bearing in the

work of the department of tourism. These include, amongst

others, overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic, a massive rollout of

infrastructure, a substantial increase in local production, an

employment stimulus to create jobs and support livelihoods and

the rapid expansion of the country’s energy generation

capacity.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 20**

The department receives a total budget of R7,6 billion over

the medium-term. Transfers to South African tourism account

for an estimated 53,3% which is R4,1 billion of this amount

over this period. Expenditure is expected to increase at an

average annual rate of 0,8%, from R2,5 billion in 2021-22 to

R2,6 billion in 2024-25. Of this allocation, R2 49 billion has

been allocated for the 2022-23 budget which is R370,8 million

has been allocated to fund compensation of employees. An

amount of R550,4 million is budgeted for goods and services,

R1 565,6 billion for transfers and subsidies and R4,8 million

for the payment of capital assets.

While the ANC believes that this allocation is inadequate for

the mammoth task of this department, principal amongst others

being the urgent need to get the tourism economy back to its

pre COVID-19 trajectory. We are also alive to the reality that

our fiscus has been severely constrained. The triple

challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality continue to

worsen as our economy grapples with the pandemic, the July

2021 unrests, and the recent floods as a result of climate

change.

We implore on the department and its entity to use the

allocated funds optimally while also fostering new



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 21**

partnerships in order to further stretch the value of what has

been allocated.

The Tourism sector remains part of the least transformed

sectors of our economy. As we put money into supporting the

tourism sector’s recovery, we cannot turn a blind eye to the

task of systematically transforming this sector to serve and

include all our people. In the words of the Secretary-General

of the United Nation World Tourism Organisation, Zurab

Pololikashvili, I quote:

This COVID-19 crisis is an opportunity to rethink the

tourism sector and its contribution to the people and

planet; an opportunity to build back better towards a

more sustainable, inclusive and resilient tourism sector

that ensures the benefits of tourism are enjoyed widely

and fairly.

Our transformation strategy for the tourism sector as adopted

in 2018, identifies that the tourism sector is faced with

ownership, management control, skills development, enterprise

and supplier development, socio-economic development and

stakeholder partnership and collaboration problems that need

to be addressed. It further makes the determination that



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 22**

addressing these problems is critical in building a bridge to

enhance the pace of transformation to facilitate and integrate

industry-wide processes to catalyse transformation in the

sector and map out a comprehensive set of targeted actions for

transforming the sector beyond the broad-based black economic

empowerment, B-BBEE, compliance.

Hon Chair, transformation of this sector is imperative and

inevitable. It cannot be that minority groups keep running to

the courts in an attempt to enforce the same patterns that

exclude majority of the people from truly bettering their

lives and that of generations to come using tourism products

and offerings.

Evidently, the tourism sector is most vulnerable to economic

shocks such as pandemics and climate change. We need a social

compact geared towards the adoption of new strategies that

will effectively and positive change and resilience in the

The ANC welcomes the United Nations World Tourism

Organisation’s move to accelerate the adoption of new

technology among tourism enterprises and we hope that South

Africa and the continent as whole can leverage benefits from

this initiative. This will be done through the digital futures



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 23**

programme, launched in collaboration with some of the world’s

leading technology, finance and business companies. We must

all support this initiative as it is focused on small and

medium-sized enterprises which make up 80% of all tourism

businesses. The United Nations World Tourism Organisation aims

to reach at least one million tourism small and medium-sized

enterprises, SMEs, over the lifetime of the programme,

providing them with the foundational skills and knowledge

needed to harness the power of new and emerging technologies.

The programme is anticipated to assist the SMEs recover from

the impacts of the pandemic and drive the sector forward

powered by innovation and new technology.

According to World Bank research, another area of focus post

COVID-19 should be green tourism or ecotourism. The World Bank

argues that for every dollar government invested in protected

areas and support for nature-based tourism in 2019, the

economic rate of return was at least six times the original

investment

As the ANC we support this Budget Vote and the use of the

district development model to enhance and ensure co-ordination

in the work of the department. We also call on the department

to fast track the reviewing of the White Paper on the



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 24**

Development and Promotion of Tourism in South Africa process

as it is long overdue.

Hon Chair, tourism is one of the major contributors to the

economy and society in terms of job creation and investment,

boosting urban and rural economy. A lot of the SMEs both in

urban and rural communities are also largely depended on the

growth of the tourism industry. Evidence indicates that

tourism has a deep and wide value chain linkages which offers

many SMEs opportunities from vehicle manufacturing, the car

rental industry to textile manufacturing producing linen that

accommodation provides us and restaurant bars.

It has great potential to contribute to the wellbeing of

communities and it could shape government’s efforts to meet

its sustainable development goals. The importance of the

tourism industry finds its expression in the National

Development Plan, reimagining industrial strategy and the

economic reconstruction and recovery plan.

Global and domestic measures designed to fight the spread of

the virus restrictions on travels business operation and

people to people interaction, have brought the tourism

industry to its knees. The department’s budget and spending



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 25**

plans seeks to put in action the targeted action plans

outlined in the tourism sector recovery plan and to place the

tourism industry in pre-COVID-19 pandemic period and beyond.

Hon members, although we all agree that the public spending

with regard to spending in the tourism industry need to be

scaled up taking into consideration the impact of COVID-19

pandemic to the industry. However, great efforts have been

made to align the current budget and spending plans to the

tourism sector recovery plan. The development of the tourism

sector recovery plan demonstrated the importance of the

collaboration and partnership between government and industry

stakeholders in bolstering efforts to put tourism into a new

inclusive broad trajectory.

Businesses and organisations across the tourism industry

contributed immensely in the development of industry recovery

plan. The budget and spending plans attempt to put resources

into targeted interventions identified by government and

tourism industry players. A budget and spending plans

correctly put more emphasis in the growth and development of

domestic tourism with market segment in providing a much-

needed boost to have sustained many tourism destination and



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 26**

businesses and will continue to be a key driver of recovery in

the short to medium-term.

The department is expected to spend a targeted initiative to

bolster global marketing programme to reignite international

demand and implement an initiative that support and promote

tourism regional integration. South Africa tourism will

continue to market South Africa internationally and

domestically as a preferred tourism and business events

destination and monitor and evaluate the performance of the

tourism sector over the medium-term.

South African tourism is expected to spend approximately

R4 billion to drive tourism initiatives. This exclude income

generation from own revenue such as tourism marketing, levels

grading income, interest on investment and sundry income from

events such as exhibitions.

The depart recognising that the targeted development

initiative will require intersectoral collaboration and focus

prosectoral intervention to ensure improved travel

facilitation through the implementation of e-visas, tourist

safety, live capacity and quick turnaround in processing



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 27**

licenses as I indicated above. Thank you very much, hon

Chairperson. The ANC supports this Budget Vote.

Ms H S BOSHOFF: Chairperson, at the recent Travel Indaba held

in Durban, the Minister inter alia alluded to the many great

achievements her department had reached with regards to travel

and tourism. Unfortunately, this is not what I have

experienced, as feedback from the ground sings another song.

Tourism on the ground reflects the reality that government has

done little to nothing for the tourism and travel sector. The

growth and development we see in this sector, which, by the

way is one of the largest contributors to the gross domestic

product, GDP, is because of this sectors own resilience and

not because of governments assistance or interventions.

However, what she did not mention was that due to her

government’s job destroying lockdown period during COVID-19,

around 470 000 jobs in the tourism sector were lost. If she

were more on the ground and less busy trying to secure her

position as the next president of the country she would see

how these draconian regulations had impacted on the sector. It

will take these sector years to recover to once again reach

its full potential.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 28**

This crisis or pandemic, call it what you wish, was an

opportunity for the tourism department to rethink how tourism,

going forward would interact with our societies, other

economic sectors and our natural resources of which we have an

abundance, and then also our rich and diverse ecosystems.

Another aspect was to rethink on how to measure and manage it

better, to ensure a fair distribution of its benefits and to

advance the transition towards a resilient tourism economy.

This department should have by now identified the massive

impact this pandemic had and will still have on the lives and

livelihoods of our citizens and our economies to ensure a

people centred tourism sector is rebuilt. One of the key

factors that the department should have addressed was to

ensure that health factors continue to be a priority and co-

ordinated health protocols at all tourism related businesses

were in place to protect workers, communities and travellers

alike.

Honourable Chair, the tourism sector is the supporter of an

extensive value chain, which consists of accommodation,

restaurants, transport, airlines, tourist destinations, food

and beverage companies, tour guides and many more which

translate into thousands of jobs, supporting a vast majority



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 29**

of the population. This sector deserves more than only the

crumbs that seem to be handed to them.

The DA saw and even alerted the department to the potential

misuse of relief funding during presentations to the select

committee, however the department chose to turn a blind eye to

our observations and low and behold, a whopping R13 million

was incorrectly paid out through the Tourism Relief Fund and

the Relief Fund for Tourist Guides and not a single report has

been forthcoming as to the steps taken against any of the

transgressors.

In South Africa there are many barriers hampering tourism

like, the ease of entry, infrastructure collapse, crime and of

course the threats of climate change. We saw the e-visas being

rolled out to 14 countries earlier this year, which, I admit

is a step in the right direction, however it needs to be

rolled out to the rest of the globe to facilitate potential

travellers who want to spend their dollars in our country. And

I trust the Minister will engage further with the Minister of

Home Affairs to fast track the access for the other countries.

Infrastructure collapse is another huge threat to tourism to

lure tourists to our shores, we need to be able to provide



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 30**

first class services like clean water, good roads, and a

stable electricity supply. Unfortunately, tourism in our towns

and villages have been dealt a severe blow due to the quality

of their water resources which are infested with human faeces

due to waste water treatment plants not functioning properly

or not functioning at all, leakages and interruption to the

supply due to ageing infrastructure and the lack of skills.

The roads to various points of interest, - and I can only just

speak about Mpumalanga, attractions are in a state of

disrepair which is not only a hindrance to any tourism, but a

grave danger to the tourist as their lives are put at stake

and their vehicles are damaged due to the many potholes found

on these roads. Tourists are exposed to rolling blackouts

which puts the owner of an establishment in a predicament as

he/she cannot always provide back-up electricity especially in

light of the price of fuel which has sky rocketed due to the

Russian/Ukraine war. These impediments resonate not only with

tourism in our rural areas, but with those running tourism

businesses in our metro’s as well.

Being in Durban for both the Travel Indaba and the

International Labour Organisation, ILO, on the Elimination of

Child Labour afforded me the opportunity to see for myself



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 31**

what impact the recent floods had not only on the

infrastructure but the beaches as well. It is a sorry state of

affairs with some beaches being closed for use by the public

and tourists alike due to excessive sewer leakages into the

ocean. The same goes for the rivers, which provide water to

many settlements on the embankments. If these matters are not

addressed, this country will experience a pandemic worse than

Covid-19.

I now come to the aspect of crime. International travel bodies

are warning travellers to exercise caution when travelling to

South Africa as the crime which includes murder, robbery, car-

jacking, rape etc. has escalated. Visitors are cautioned not

to walk around alone, never to drive with an open car window

and to never display cash or valuables. This Minister, should

not be the case and I urge you to engage with the Minister of

Police to request increased visible policing to combat the

crime that is crippling our tourism industry.

In the wake of climate change, which is a topic of great

importance across the globe, it is important for the tourism

department to adopt an approach of cross-collaboration, not

only locally but globally. We need to see this sector plan to

adapt to all forms of climate change and have in place



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 32**

programmes that will address the scarcity of our water

resources due to the increase of temperatures, addressing the

risk of sea levels rising, and of course putting a plan of

action in place to protect the ever increasing threat on

biodiversity. We cannot through the lack of information or

knowledge allow the impact of climate change on this sector to

deter any visitor from visiting our shores.

Minister I am pleading with you to take your duties as the

custodian of this department seriously as you and your

department need to be at the forefront of all initiatives to

ensure that this industry does not collapse because of the

threats as stated in my speech. You and your department need

to be innovative in your ideas, and last but not least, you

need to be proactive and not reactive.

I would then also like to extend an invitation to you, to

please as a matter of urgency, attend a tourism meeting with

the select committee as we, since your appointment as the

Minister have not set eyes on you at any meetings. We need to

be granted the same respect as the members of the portfolio

committee. Engagement with you is crucial so as to afford the

members serving on this committee the opportunity to share

critical information with the tourism sector on ground level.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 33**

They need to be reassured that you care about their needs and

not only your own needs.

In your opening speech you spoke about needing assistance from

the select committee, we are here and we are prepared to work

with you. Just attend our meetings and afford the respect we

so rightfully deserve. I thank you.

Mr M MVOKO (Eastern Cape): Thank you very much, hon

Chairperson, greetings to the Chairperson of the NCOP,

Minister for Tourism, hon Lindiwe Sisulu, Deputy Minister and

hon members of this House, ladies and gentlemen, good

afternoon. Hon House Chair, on behalf of the Eastern Cape, I

wish to welcome and support the Budget Vote for the Department

of Tourism, as was delivered by Minister Sisulu. In her

speech, the Minister painted a picture of a tourism sector

that was battered by COVID-19 pandemic, and the consequences

of that in the South African economy. She has however also

painted a picture of a sector that displayed resilience and

zeal.

We noted that from 2019 to 2020, there was a 32,4% drop in

total employment of travel and tourism in South Africa, based

on total contributions of travel and tourism to employment



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 34**

compared to 2019. Although the international travel was

affected by the pandemic and affected tourism in the country,

statistics from the Department of Tourism indicated that

domestic tourist arrivals increased for the Eastern Cape

during 2020. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, there were

3,7 million domestic trips, an increase from 2019 figures of

2 million. This improvement placed the Eastern Cape at number

one in the country in terms of domestic trips undertaken. The

amount generated is estimated at R7,3 billion. This

performance is unprecedented in recent history given that the

results have exceeded all imaginations.

Hon members, in 2020, as the Eastern Cape, we invested in the

implementation of the Tourism Recovery Plan, focusing on three

key interventions, that is, Tourism Intelligence; Business

Continuity and Sustainability; and Smart Marketing.

Subsequently, various initiatives were undertaken during the

lockdown in anticipation of the reopening of the tourism

sector as the lockdown restrictions were gradually being

relaxed. The statistics illustrate the consequences of the

Smart Marketing efforts.

As we all know that the Tourism Recovery Plan also depends on

infrastructure development to support economic growth and



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 35**

development. In this regard, we appreciate the support

received from the national government departments, including

the Department of Tourism, Department of Forestry, Fisheries

and the Environment and other funders such as the National

Lottery Commission, that have funded a number of projects in

the Eastern Cape, especially within the Eastern Cape Parks and

Tourism Agency Nature Reserves.

Admittedly, COVID-19 has impacted negatively in terms of

delaying the progress in the construction of many projects.

The Department of Tourism has been of great assistance to

improve our tourism infrastructure. We are currently working

with the department on infrastructure maintenance programmes

to identify the prioritised projects in ECPTA’s nature

reserves. Just to mention a few of the projects that the

national Department of Tourism has assisted us on, hon House

Chair. They have made a total investment of R21 million for

the construction of four hikers sites, and the work done there

is at 50% completion. The investment included the

refurbishment of the Port Alfred and Wild Coast beaches. Thus

far, the project has created 16 job opportunities.

They have also invested R41,9 million for the construction of

the new tourist accommodation facility and office space in



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 36**

Cape Morgan Nature Reserve. The project has created 30 local

jobs, and the construction is at 71% completion. The provision

of universal accessibility at Dwesa Nature Reserve has been

completed. This includes new ablution facilities and upgrade

to one chalet, funded by the Department of Tourism and

implemented by the ECPTA.

Minister in her speech mentioned that her department has

implemented the tourism infrastructure maintenance programme

in key tourism assets as well as finalising the Baviaanskloof

Interpretative Centre that is located within our Province. We

appreciate all this support as we believe that it will assist

us to boost our economic growth ambitions, especially at the

time that our equitable share allocation continues to dwindle.

Hon members, we are aware of the impact of the climate change

in the tourism sector. As we are currently reviewing the

Eastern Cape Tourism Master Plan, the issue of climate change

will also receive attention to ensure that there is guidance

and awareness provided on its effects, especially with respect

to tourism in the coastal communities which are most prone to

flooding. As a province that was also affected by the recent

flood disaster, our Agency, ECPTA, is working with DBSA to



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 37**

attend to the facilities that have been affected in the nature

reserves.

Yes, COVID-19 has changed the face of the sector, but it has

also taught us to break down silos, to strengthen

partnerships, and to gain a new appreciation for the

collective responsibility of what we are working towards –

that is to leverage our tremendous natural resources to drive

growth and development of the province we call home.

This time requires customer care and service excellence as

paramount antidotes. Teamwork, partnership and collaboration

is the ultimate currency. I want to urge all tourism and

hospitality product owners to join us on this journey. We have

already shown, through the many successful public-private

partnerships and collaborations forged during the pandemic,

that our collective abilities far exceed our individual

efforts. Hon House Chair, I want to tell all travellers across

the world that as the Eastern Cape we stand ready to welcome

you all; it is yours to explore. Ndiyabulela. Thank you very

much.

Ms M O MOKAUSE: Thank you, House Chairperson, the EFF rejects

the proposed Budget for the Department of Tourism with the



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 38**

contempt it deserves. Tourism stands as a key economic sector

with the potential to make great contribution towards

development in destination areas, as well as act as a driver

for employment creation in South Africa, yet under the

leadership of this department, such potential is yet to be

realised.

This department stands responsible for marketing South Africa

both domestically and internationally. The expansion of the

tourism industry is a key driver of growth and development,

and this has always been neglected. Currently, tourism stands

as a highly vulnerable in South Africa. There is no leadership

at all in this department.

The tourism industry has lost more than one million jobs since

the COVID-19 pandemic and has impacted this industry

negatively mainly due to the lockdown and travel restrictions

which were imposed. We know that government is the one that

caused the most damage to the tourism industry especially in

the hospitality industry. As a result, our people who owns

B&Bs, small hotels and restaurants lost their livelihoods.

The only tourism industry which survived this disaster such as

COVID-19, the 21 July unrest and the floods in both KwaZulu-



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 39**

Natal and Eastern Cape province, are white and international

structures. Black people are now completely excluded in the

tourism industry. The situation has been worsened as

government failed to give relief on time.

House Chair, the people of KwaZulu-Natal have suffered

unbearable loss in all spheres of their lives. It is a crime

that still today, government has not yet quantified the costs

to assist the tourism sector. It has been almost two months

now and the people are still waiting on government for

assistance. There is no communication. People in the tourism

sector are now coming to the EFF requesting to be assisted

because government has completely neglected and failed them.

Residents in the rural areas who offer activities such as

home-based tourism, ecotourism, cultural tourism, adventurous

tourism, guest farms, backpacking, riding and agri-tourism,

stand stranded, neglected by department, with no forms of

relief.

This should have been a priority to the South African

government after what we went through. This is concerning to

note, as rural tourism increases the participation of the poor

in the overall development of tourism, and in turn, also bring



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 40**

great benefits to residents living in rural areas, as rural

areas are often forgotten and disadvantaged by most government

programmes in comparison to their urban counterparts.

The demand for building tourism infrastructures and

destinations in the villages, townships and small towns is

reduced to events by government departments. This cannot be

counted as support from the Tourism Department. We know this

to be true as we went to view Chief Maqoma in Ntaba kaNdoda.

The state of the gravesite is shocking, yet the MEC comes to

this Council and grandstand. Steve Biko’s grave in the Eastern

Cape, in King William’s Town also stands dilapidated and the

engraving and the signage on the has been washed away by rain.

In almost 10 years from now on, we will not even know where

Steve Biko was buried.

Next to Steve Biko’s grave, the Cattle Killing Mass Grave

Memorial in King William’s Town is covered by grass. Next to

the Mass Grave in Eastern Cape, King William’s Town, there is

a memorial grave of white solders that is well maintained by

the ANC government. This is not only happening in the Eastern

Cape. It is happening in all provinces, where these current

premiers who are serving their white masters only takes care



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 41**

of the gravesites of white people and neglect great freedom

fighters of black people.

The tourism sector ought to be a national priority so that it

can contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of

all South Africans. Tourism should be used to help the

development of rural and township communities.

The department should be providing support to investors in

rural communities and in less developed geographic areas, so

that the potential of these areas is unleashed, by improving

infrastructure that enhances accessibility to remote areas.

The department is cutting Budget to create jobs. The people

who must be placed in the Working for Tourism programme are

sitting at home because R18 million was cut from Budget. We

reject this Budget, as the department has failed to develop

and implement marketing strategies ... scenic beauty, diverse

wildlife, ecotourism, and variety of cultural and heritage

sites in South Africa.

This department has failed to realise that South Africa’s

potential as a big event destination and to build a travel and

tourism culture amongst South Africans. This department has



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 42**

failed to encourage the grading of establishments to enhance

South Africa’s value proposition and experiences for all

tourists. The EFF rejects proposed Budget for the Department

of Tourism with the contempt it deserves. Thank you.

Mr K M MMOIEMANG: Hon Chairperson, allow me, on behalf of the

ANC, to throw my weight in support of this Tourism Budget

Vote. Hon House Chairperson, allow me also to pay due

recognition to the Chairperson of the National Council of

Provinces, the Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, the two House

Chairpersons, the Chief Whip, the Minister and her team, hon

colleagues and fellow South Africans, a few weeks ago, a great

tragedy befell our nation causing widespread destruction and

significant loss of life. The floods in KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern

Cape and North West, destroyed hundreds of livelihoods and

important infrastructure that is imperative for economic

activity and growth.

It is important to raise that the tourism sector remains one

of the most susceptible and vulnerable sector to such economic

disasters. The Sixth Assessment Report of the

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, indicates

that by 2030, 50% of the world's population living in coastal

areas will be being exposed to such floods, storms and



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 43**

tsunamis. This will intensify the vulnerability of communities

living in poverty-stricken conditions.

Therefore, this necessitates that the ANC-led government,

working together with business, organised labour and civil

society, must be able to put in place mechanisms for effective

rapid response to disasters. Indeed, we welcome Minister

Sisulu and the department’s pledge to assist these communities

through the introduction of a solidarity relief fund, so as to

revive the tourism industry.

Indeed, this must be appreciated, hon Minister. I suspect

those on the extreme right and extreme left did not hear that.

As we all know, tourism is one of the most important earners

of foreign currency. Therefore, tourism creates hundreds of

thousands of direct jobs for low-skilled workers and millions

of jobs in related sectors.

The recovery of this sector will require that we all work

together with the aim of having a more inclusive and

transformed tourism sector that is resilient. We got that from

the Minister’s input. We implore the department to continue

working with various government departments and entities for

the roll out of the incentive programme.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 44**

In this regard, we welcome the formal partnerships established

with entities such as the National Empowerment Fund, Nef, the

Industrial Development Corporation, IDC, the Tourism Grading

Council of South Africa, TGCSA, and the Small Enterprise

Finance Agency, Sefa. The Tourism Incentive Programme offers

partial financial support to qualifying small tourism

enterprises to participate and exhibit at selected tourism

marketing platforms. We saw this, hon Minister, during the

African Indaba.

The ANC calls for a social compact that is going to be

inclusive of the public and private sectors and we need

initiatives to go down to the municipality level wherein most

of our SMME’s in the tourism value chain are located.

Therefore, tourism must take its rightful place as the driver

of economic growth. Support and inclusion must be given to new

entrants in the sector, also making use of the district

development model to ensure that linkages are established with

other sectors in local economies.

We applaud the leadership of KwaZulu-Natal province for the

initiative they have taken to invite the President and his

team, together with organised business into a meeting to

establish how they can join hands in building back the economy



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 45**

of the province after the devastation of the floods. We also

agree with the co-chairperson of the KZN Growth Coalition, Mr

Moses Tembe, that private-public partnership, PPP, model as a

funding model needs to be pursued more actively as part of the

recovery efforts.

It is against the backdrop of these initiatives that we urge

the Minister to contest and defend the court action on the

Tourism Equity Fund and look at other legally viable ways in

which the fund can be released for disbursement to businesses

that adhere to the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment, B-

BBEE, score card.

We agree that this could probably be the reason why they

reject this Budget Vote, because of the illustration by the

department through Tourism Equity Fund, to be more biased

towards the historically excluded enterprises. These funds

would boost these businesses and allow even those who lost

their jobs as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic to return

into the tourism value chain. In addition to that, more

opportunities would likely be created, thereby reducing the

unemployment rate.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 46**

AfriForum and Solidarity must resist from being stumbling

blocks to the transformation of our economy. If they continue,

they must be prepared to take responsibility for the

consequences that include social instability, poverty and

crime.

The memorandum of understanding signed with Emirates Airline

presents a unique opportunity for South Africa to leverage

from their key markets, thereby promoting and boosting visitor

arrivals and inbound traffic into South Africa. This is a bold

move as Emirates are the world’s largest airline, and we hope

that this partnership will yield the intended results, as we

revive and reposition destination South Africa to the world at

large.

The African National Congress commends the work of SA Tourism,

in supporting emerging tourism enterprises to be included into

the mainstream tourism economy through marketing exposure. We

are testimony to that. We saw that when we were in Durban. SA

Tourism does this through a number of platforms, including

participation at Africa’s Travel Indaba. SA Tourism will be

assisting 1 096 SMMEs in the METF period spanning 2020-21 to

2024-25. This cumulative number of tourism SMMEs will be



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 47**

assisted through both business events platforms, visitor

experience and hosting itineraries.

This year’s Africa Travel Indaba amplified the need for

collaborative efforts, with an emphasis on countries of the

African continent helping each other to rebuild the tourism

sector for the creation of jobs and poverty alleviation: About

120 SMMEs were represented at across all stands; a further 90

SMMEs were hosted on the South African Department of Tourism

stand. under the theme, ‘Hidden Gems,’ from around South

Africa; and these comprised 10 SMME’s selected from each

province.

This provided for an opportunity to network with African

delegates to identify prospects on the continent and broker

deals with delegates from countries such as Botswana, Namibia,

Mozambique, Ghana and Zimbabwe amongst others.

On grading, hon members, we must show our support for the SA

Tourism plans to achieve a target of 5 355 graded

establishments in the 2022-23 financial year. Amongst these,

will be SMMEs assisted trough the tourism grading support

incentive of the Tourism Incentive Programme with greater

emphasis placed on assisting new entrants to be more



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 48**

sustainable. This could be the reason why the DA and the EFF

are not supporting this Budget Vote. Minister.

A specific focus will be on reviewing the grading system to

include emerging products and accommodation SMME. This will

enable these SMME’s to use grading as a tool to attract

investors and potential clients into their establishments.

The ANC welcomes the increase in budget allocation for

programme 2 of 2,4%, which in nominal terms is from

R1 382,7 billion in 2021-22 to R1 416 billion in 2022-23. The

ANC support is motivated by the fact that the main cost driver

for this sub-programme will be transferred to the department’s

entity, SA Tourism. In 2020-21 the transfer to SA Tourism was

significantly reduced, at R423.0 million, with the funding

allocated towards relief funds for Covid-19.

It is therefore encouraging that the budget allocation has

reverted to 2019 allocations as a result of the lifting of

global lockdowns and travel bans and vaccination rollouts.

Indeed, this is a reflection that tourism is back on its

shack. The increase in allocation is aimed at recovery

initiatives for the sector. We hope that they will carry the

theme of collaboration across the board, and use this



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 49**

allocation to foster a more transformed and inclusive tourism

sector.

As we promote domestic, regional and international tourism,

let us also strike a balance so as to showcase product

offering from the diverse South Africa. Let us also expose the

world to the mosaic of superb scenic landscape, a fascinating

cultural heritage of Limpopo, the colourful history and

variety of cultural tourist attractions, such as the annual

floral display that takes place in Namaqualand of the Northern

Cape; not to forget the home of diverse landscapes and

wildlife with stunning scenery and fascinating things to do,

the province of Mpumalanga. The list goes on and on, with

every province having its own special offering.

We encourage the various provinces to work with SA Tourism and

allocate more financial and nonfinancial resources to ensure

that more marketing initiatives are in place to attract more

tourists. Hon House Chair, the ANC supports Budget Vote 38:

Tourism. Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF TOURISM: Thank you, hon House Chair;

Minister of Tourism; members of the executive council, MECs,

of Tourism in various provinces; the Chair of the Select



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 50**

Committee; members of the Select Committee; hon members;

director-general; acting chief executive officer, CEO, of the

SA Tourism, SAT; and fellow South Africans, we present here

today our aspirations for a more prosperous tourism sector

that benefits all our citizens in an inclusive way.

As we undertook the process to develop the plans we are

tabling here today, we were still in the throes of extremely

punitive, damaging and unfair red listing of the Southern

Africa Region by several countries preventing their citizens

from traveling to our destination. The levels of uncertainty

about the future of tourism were quite high. Despite all of

these, we chose hope. We opted to focus on our resources of

readying our sector for the recovery that we are intent on

creating. We decided to rally all our public and private

partners towards what was possible.

To achieve this future we hope for, we argued that a diverse

tourism offering that is unique and of quality is key to

enable for the growth we want. We present to you our plans

for improving the diversity of the tourism offering in our

destination, for ensuring quality assured products serviced by

skilled personnel to improve the experience of our visitors as

well as our plans for using business events and the domestic



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 51**

market to increase the economic performance of tourism as a

sector.

Hon members will be aware of the importance of the domestic

market for the sustainable development of tourism. Its

benefits for addressing seasonality patterns and geographical

spread are well documented. As we set out to continue our

efforts to grow this important market in 2022-23, we want to

ensure that the brand alignment in marketing South Africa is

strengthened. We will continue to collaborate with provinces

to achieve this alignment through established structures such

as the Ministers and Members of the Executive Council, Minmec,

and the chief executive officers, CEOs, forum.

Research indicates that domestic consumers are looking for

affordable travel rates and information on where to go and

what to do. South African Tourism has responded accordingly,

we targeted deal-driven domestic campaigns, which has yielded

positive results. In relation to the domestic market, we are

still confronted by barriers that require intervention of our

portfolio. These barriers include a perceived lack of safety

and security, lack of value for money and a low brand appeal.

As we proceed into the 2022-23 financial year, SA Tourism will

intensify its efforts that focus on servicing and growing



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 52**

domestic, regional and international leisure tourism in order

to drive recovery of the tourism sector in the near and to the

medium-term.

The Department has implemented the Domestic Tourism Scheme in

2021-22 financial year in the Northern Cape, Gauteng and

Limpopo highlighting the role and responsibility of tour

operators to help contribute in making travel accessible,

enabling the participation of people with modest income and

previously marginalised groups in the society. These

initiative inculcate a culture of travel will continue in this

financial year.

Another important opportunity for growing visitors lies in the

business events subsector. The SA National Convention Bureau

will actively seek to develop leads for future business events

to ensure that South Africa develops and maintains a bid

pipeline for continued growth of the event sector. One of the

key strategies to maintain South Africa’s position as the

number one business events destination in Africa and the

Middle East and to be truly competitive on the international

stage, is the enhanced focus on business development support,

to maximise South Africa’s chances of winning the rights to

host business events.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 53**

In addition to international events, we will continue to

implement the national association project that drives the

development of secondary meetings destination by encouraging

localised associations. This project has the potential to

address the concentration of business events in main cities

and contribute to geographical spread, encouraging federations

and societies to rotate their national meetings and

conferences across South Africa spreading the economic impact

of local meetings and conferences to villages, towns and small

cities.

With the programmes indicated above that drive the demand side

need to be met with responsive supply of quality, diverse,

unique and transformed offering in the sector. The

maintenance programme has been a flagship programme in this

regard. The programme has the objective to improve and ensure

proper maintenance of national parks assets for destination

enhancement, job creation and small, medium and macro

enterprises. The programme also responds to the Economic

Reconstruction and Recovery Plan as well as the Tourism Sector

Recovery Plan on the protection and rejuvenation of supply.

The system of national parks in South Africa is a very

significant asset for tourism growth. The maintenance

programme contributes to ensuring that these crucial tourism



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 54**

assets do not decay to a point where we would lose significant

revenue and jobs.

Total cumulative employment created by the programme was 857

with an expenditure of R82 million by mid-March. This

programme will be expanded to include several provincial parks

as part of the Presidential Employment Stimulus. Another

benefit of this programme is that the contractors overseeing

the work have progressed through at least one level in their

grading, allowing them to bid for bigger contracts going

forward. Given the nature of the parks, the programme is

predominantly rural, - I’m sure hon Mokause is listening – is

predominantly rural, benefitting communities and participants

in the proximity to the parks, many of whom felt that they do

not benefit from the parks.

Another key enabler is the crucial role of provinces and local

government in creating conditions for tourism growth. In their

legislative mandate, provincial and local government can

contribute significantly to the attractiveness of the

destination, thereby boosting our ability to market the

destination. We will continue to support the two spheres to

play an increasing improving role in this regard.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 55**

However, Chair, we must indicate that we don’t have a

responsibility of maintaining heritage sites. Heritage sites

is the responsibility of the Department of Arts and Culture.

Here we are debating tourism and therefore we need to

understand the role and the function stipulated in the

Constitution. Visitor experience can make or break a

destination. The good experience of tourist within our

destination can grow our repeat visitor numbers and extend our

reach to potential future tourists through word of mouth. In

this regard we focus on ensuring adequate skills are availed

for the sector and that quality of assurance is provided for

our offering.

We will continue to implement the youth skills development

programme nationwide, ensuring geographical spread. The

various training programmes being offered are based on

industry demand of these skills. The programme is implemented

in partnership with private sector and with the objectives to

contribute towards poverty alleviation through payment of

stipends; placement of learners in tourism and hospitality

establishments, thereby granting them exposure to job

opportunities and income generation.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 56**

The programmes we have implemented this financial year

include; Food Safety Quality Assurer Programme, where 300

unemployed and retrenched youth in KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape

and Gauteng provinces will benefit; the National Youth Chefs

Training Programme targeting 300 unemployed youth in Free

State and Northern Cape; the Hospitality, Youth, Food and

Beverage Programme, which will be implemented in all 9

provinces targeting 1000 youth; the Wine Service Training

Programme, which was implemented in KwaZulu-Natal, Western

Cape and Northern Cape and will be implemented in KwaZulu-

Natal and Western Cape this financial year targeting 252

youth; the National Youth Career Expo, which was attended by

over 3 000 students this year will continue this financial

year to be implemented.

A total number of 1 178 of educators ... [Time expired.] ...

As I conclude, Chair, let me indicate that we want to indicate

that we will proceed steadily further away from this painful

era of the pandemic chanting new paths of development growth.

We wish to join the clarion call made by the President that no

one should be left behind. We therefore call upon all our

social partners to lend all hands on deck as we part a social

compact and confront these challenges faced by this beautiful

country of ours. Thank you very much.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 57**

Mr T J BRAUTESETH: Hon Chairperson, hon Minister, hon members,

fellow South Africans, at the heart tourism in South Africa

lies this statement: “Local is lekker.” That is the primary

reason why we as a country do our best to attract visitors to

our shores to experience a uniquely South African experience

in terms of hospitality and environment. We must however never

forget that tourism is an extremely competitive market. Every

other country in the world also believes that their country is

the best and just as we do, try to convince patrons to visit

and spend.

In fact, given our geographical location, many tourists shun

the long haul when they have so many other attractions close

to home. In short, it is vital that we are innovative,

flexible and always creating an environment to conducive to

success. If we do not, patrons will simply go elsewhere and we

will sit with the lost opportunity. I raised these cautions in

the context of the province I represent here in this House,

KwaZulu-Natal, the Kingdom of the Zulu. We are understandably

proud of our heritage and it’s amazing that you explained

that. From ... [Inaudible.] ... and the traditions of the

Zulus nation to the majestic Drakensberg to our warm beaches

and seas, and of course our unique game reserves.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 58**

We really do have a lot to offer. We have a world-class and

airport - King Shaka International Airport, that welcomes

guests and promises much. But here is the catch, there is

always a catch. As soon as you leave the airport and the

generally well-maintained national highways, you discover the

reason why KwaZulu-Natal is not the best tourism province in

the country. The provincial and rural roads present a game of

dodgems to the unwary tourist as they have to swerve

unexpectedly for massive potholes and often end up damaging

their vehicles in remote desolate areas with no cellphone

signal.

The grandeur of our natural beauty is lost as our guests try

to repair a tyre in sweltering heat or dark cold. It is not an

experience you would send a postcard home about. And when you

get to your destination, you could well be without basic

services like electricity, water and sanitation. As the

holiday season in KwaZulu-Natal looms we have the eThekwini

Metropolitan Municipality struggling without water and putting

up with the stench of hundreds of thousands of litres of raw

sewage pumping into our rivers and the Indian Ocean. Beaches

are closed and the tourists will stay away.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 59**

This catastrophe is obviously due to the devastating floods in

April, it must be noted that this happened six weeks ago and

no major interventions have been made. The same cannot be said

for one of the main tourist destinations, the lower South

Coast. The Ugu District has been ravaged by corruption and

incompetence for the past decade and this has inevitably led

to consistent and persistent water supply problems, whereas

the areas had outages for weeks on end. These areas stretch

from Scottburgh down to Port Edward, a 120 kilometre stretch

of ideal tourist attraction coastline. While the municipality

and province fiddles, the tourist income, to the tune of

billions is burning to ashes.

So, the question may be asked: “What has this got to do with

the Department of Tourism?” The simple reality is that the

department cannot sit back and watch. Unlike the Western Cape,

where that government and those municipalities take the

tourism environment seriously and it shows, the department

must play a direct and meaningful role in ANC municipalities

in KwaZulu-Natal to make sure that the environment for tourism

is conducive to happy holidays and a desire to return again

and again.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 60**

The budget we are debating today, sadly makes no provision for

interventions in this regard. So, my question today to the

Minister is: “Although it is not your responsibility, tourism

has to realise that you need to seriously consider this

proposal and reach out to Co-operative Governance and

Traditional Affairs and establish a well-resourced

interministerial task team to find solutions to this worsening

crisis, otherwise we will kiss many tourism dollar, euros,

pounds and even local tourism away. I thank you, Minister.

Mr T A MOKONE (Limpopo): Hon Chairperson, hon Deputy

Chairperson, the president of the SA Local Government

Association, Salga, hon Minister of Tourism, hon Deputy

Minister of Tourism, hon House Chairperson, committees and

oversights, hon delegates, hon special delegates, Acting

Secretary to Parliament and secretary to the NCOP ...

[Inaudible.] ... Hon Chairperson, it is my pleasure to be

given this opportunity to be part of the debate of Budget Vote

No 38 of Tourism to this august House. This is a sitting after

we have celebrated Africa Day. This concept also contributes

in promoting the continent as it showcases attractive sites

for people to visit.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 61**

The year 2020, will certainly be remembered as the year that

affected the tourism industry severely. The impact was

devastating on several parts of our port of entries into the

country, including Limpopo. The local tourism business was

disarrayed on providing services to the tourism industry. In

2019, the province enjoyed a huge number of tourists from

various places in the world. Limpopo province recorded

2,2 million international visitors during that year, but with

COVID-19, the number of tourists declined abruptly.

Taking the lead from the national tourism sector recovery

plan, the main building blocks that drive the Limpopo tourism

recovery plan are to protect and maintain the provincial

market share and tourism infrastructure. The province has

started its implementation of the recovery plan aimed at

building an aggressive domestic marketing drive and

destination development plan, focussed on sustaining the

province competitive advantage in the market.

Limpopo as a living tourism destination and the only gateway

to the rest of Africa through one of the busiest port of entry

to reckon came to a standstill during this period. The

announcement of tourism in the province was enriched by the

recently opened national botanical garden in Limpopo,



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 62**

Thohoyandou. This will also boost tourism in the province and

provide a long-lasting solution to create economic

opportunities. The botanical garden is already providing

catalysts to expand tourism benefit to the area by attracting

attention to other major tourism facilities like Phiphidi

Waterfall, Fundudzi Lake, Thathe Vondo Holy Forest and Nandoni

Dam.

Limpopo was the first province to host South Africa’s largest

event post-COVID-19 era, Marula Festival in Baphalaborwa Local

Municipality which attracted thousands of guests to the Mopani

District annual event. We take pride in Waterberg District,

Mopani District and Vhembe District as our established

tourists destination of choice, with Capricorn being our

business tourism hub. We have, since September last year,

focussed our attention on reinventing Sekhukhune District.

Although Sekhukhune remains rich in mineral resources,

agricultural produce and cultural inheritance, its pace of

development remains unsatisfactory.

We have now introduced its tourism potential by working

closely with the Limpopo Tourism Agency. We intend to develop

Sekhukhune as undisputed local and township tourism industry

within the province. To promote tourism in Limpopo, we have



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 63**

deployed 180 tourism safety monitors who will be deployed at

certain hotspots areas in the province. We aim to ensure and

facilitate a safe leisure experience to all our guests.

Limpopo is home to approximately three quarters of the Kruger

National Park. Our department, in partnership with the

national Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment

supports municipalities bordering the Kruger National Park on

waste management intervention in promotion of a clean

environment to attract tourist.

In conclusion, we will only succeed in achieving our goals if

the private sector walks this path with government and the

people of our province and South Africa at large. I dare

invite the private tourism industry to continue investing in

this sector and share their products as well as continuing to

do what our beautiful country has to offer. We take this

opportunity to support Budget Vote No 38 of the Department of

Tourism. Thank you very much, Chairperson.

Mr J J LONDT: Thank you, hon House Chair and hon Minister, hon

members, with Africa Day being celebrated yesterday, and the

tourism budget debate today, I think the Brian Jackman quote

is appropriate:



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 64**

Africa changes you forever, like nowhere on earth. Once

you have been there, you will never be the same. But how

do you begin to describe the magic to someone who has

never felt it? How can you explain the fascination of

this vast, dusty continent, whose oldest roads are

elephant paths? Could it be because Africa is the place

of all our beginnings, the cradle of mankind, where our

species first stood upright on the savannahs of long ago?

We need to describe the magic that we have to offer as a

country and by extension what we have to offer as a continent

to the broader world. The problem we face is that once we are

able to describe the splendour we have to offer - we need to

make it accessible.

Why is it that we make it so difficult for tourists,

internationals, fellow Africans and even South Africans to

visit us and to explore our beautiful nation?

The benefits of tourism are undeniable: Massive economic

injections across the tourism industries that filters down

creating businesses, employment and allows beneficiaries to

leverage further opportunities from this. The improved brand

image of the country, provided we can get our colleagues at



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 65**

SAPS to improve their performance and look after our potential

brand ambassadors is immeasurable. The cross pollination

between provinces, if we can get a tourist here we must sell

one another, we are a far off destination, and must make it

enticing to do more and see more when people are already here.

Hon Boshoff and Hom Brauteseth - you’ve hit the nails on the

head and thank you for the quality inputs, may it rub off on

other speakers today.

Hon Rayi, you are lecturing us on embracing technology yet you

are struggling to adapt to Uber and AirBnB - and I am not even

talking about the use of zoom. Members and people had to log

in earlier in order to see how ANC members struggle to get

devices sorted. It’s embarrassing.

Hon Minister Sisulu, I am living my final comment for you.

Please do yourself a favour and watch your demeanour whilst

delivering this speech.

I know that you have much loftier ambitions and is probably

focussed on your presidential bid and see the move from

Housing to Tourism as a demotion - but you are here now and we

deserve better.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 66**

We need a Minister that fights for the industry, the Minister

that fight for this country not just while away her time

holding into her head reading a speech with little to no

passion at all. We need a Minister that attends the select

committee meetings, a Minister, that in this case can actually

learn from her Deputy, the hon Mahlalela, if only in

demeanour.

You are actually responsible for one of the most exciting

departments with massive potential - please treat the people

who are fighting with all they’ve got to make this industry

work for South Africa with the respect that they deserve.

From the DA side - we want to thank those role-players in the

industry that is continuing to hold our name high and selling

the true potential we have as a country. A potential that will

in all likelihood only be realised once we vote the ANC out –

We will make this happen very soon. I thank you.

Mr M DANGOR: Thank you very much, Chairperson, I rise on behalf

of the ANC to support Budget Vote 38: Tourism. The 2019 National

Manifesto of the ANC placed great emphasis on the need to

increase the support for the tourism sector, including cultural

tourism, to boost job creation and its capacity by adopting a



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 67**

‘whole-government approach’ to tourism. When the ANC made this

commitment there was no way of knowing that the following year

would take a totally different turn, wherein the country would

have to undergo a complete lockdown so as to manage and contain

the spread of a deadly virus. And possible the programming

committee should look at when they deal with debate in Tourism

to put the House next to it. So, people can’t say one thing in

one vote and say another.

That being said, it is safe to say that this approach is forward

looking as it has been one of the approaches that have helped

the South African government better manage the spread of the

Covid-19 pandemic.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development,

OECD, has encouraged countries to use this approach to better

manage as well as to optimise on all tourism sector offerings

enhanced co-ordination of activities and resources with other

departments, particularly link to the value chain.

According to the OECD, for the whole-of-government policy

approaches to be effective, there should be recognition of the

importance of strong government industry and civil society



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 68**

dialogue in the development, implementation, and monitoring

phases.

Collaboration with other departments - working with the

Department of Police, the Department of Tourism has resolved to

work together to reduce the impact of crime on the tourism

industry in the short term while moving swiftly towards complete

eradication of tourism crime in the long term.

To this effect, the department is gradually coming up with

mechanisms to deal with the crime in tourist. One of these is

the Tourism Monitors Programme whose aim is to enhance the

visitor experience as well as to improve the safety of

tourists.

The department and the Airports Company of South Africa have

trained 120 young people to be deployed across OR Tambo and

Cape Town International Airport for an initial period of three

years. This programme is implemented in partnership with the

police, preparing the youth through a rigorous 12-month

training programme ensuring their proficiency as tourist

guides and provide critical occupational health and safety

skills.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 69**

We are encouraged that the department is working together with

the Department of Home Affairs, developed the tourist module of

the e-Visa which has been activated in 14 countries including

China, India, Kenya and Nigeria etc. As the President announced

in the 2022 state of the nation address, the Department of Home

Affairs must continue to streamline and modernise the visa

application process to make it easier to travel to South Africa

for the purposes of tourism, business and work.

The e-Visa system allows tourists and visitors to South Africa

to apply for their visas online. The applications are sent to a

central adjudication hub for approval while applicants sit in

the comfort of their homes.

We are confident that this paperless virtual visa will combat

visa fraud and open South Africa as a desirable tourism

destination. The e-Visa system also has potentially huge

potential for the work that is being done to streamline and

simplify the visa process to facilitate and attract foreign

direct investment.

While the department confirmed that an expansion of the scheme

is on the and that over 14 countries are available at the end



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 70**

of March 2022, it is noted that work still needs to be done to

‘stabilise’ the current system.

The stabilisation of the system and further integration with

other key Home Affairs systems such as the Biometric Movement

Control System is a necessary intervention before the further

rollout of the system to other countries. And I think we should

actually move forward with that.

Department of Employment and Labour**:** The council must impress

upon the department to work with the Department of Employment

and Labour to better understand and address the concerns around

the patterns of employment within the tourism sector.

Hon members, these are a few examples of the work, conducted by

the Department of Tourism with other departments. As the ANC,

we believe that these kind of co-ordination and harmonisation

will provide better service delivery.

We have the Villages, the Townships and Small Towns or Dorpies.

As a means to redress the skewed distribution of benefits in the

tourism sector owing to support and direct resources that favour

big cities and towns, we call on the department to strengthen

the approach that focusses on tourism development and marketing



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 71**

of products and attractions in villages, townships and small

towns.

In the 2021-22 financial year, the South Africa National

Convention Bureau implemented its National Association Project

by hosting three conferences in villages, and small towns across

South Africa. The 27 towns selected for the project had to bid

for the hosting rights by presenting their offerings including

their local SMME service providers were included in the

associations.

Importantly and I have not been allowing bail, hon Rayi. The

Eastern Cape’s focus is on domestic tourism when the country was

experiencing international travel bans has paid off. According

to SA Tourism, there were 3,7 million domestic arrivals in the

province of the Eastern Cape in 2021, contributing R7,1 billion

direct spend in the provincial economy.

The province is on course to complete infrastructure upgrades

at some of its tourism sites to ensure that visitors are spoilt

for choice. One of those sites is the Interpretation Centre at

Baviaanskloof, which is the only Unesco World Heritage site in

the province.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 72**

The newly revamped Silaka Wildlife Reserve in Port St Johns has

received positive reviews from tourists since it opened in

December last year. This facility has been revamped to the tune

of R11 million by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the

Environment.

Some of the strategies being employed by the province to improve

tourism include tracking and profiling of tourists’ needs and

their perception about the Eastern Cape. Surely, other provinces

should learn from the province. The Eastern Cape is growing its

tourism market offering a variety of products in a diverse

environment. According to the 2020 Annual Tourism Performance

report by SA Tourism, all provinces recorded a decrease in the

number of destination trips with the exception of the Eastern

Cape, which saw a growth of 6,7%.

In addition to the initiatives taken by the province, the Eastern

Cape Liquor Board, in conjunction with the Eastern Cape Parks

and Tourism Agency, launched the Eastern Cape Craft Brewing,

Distilling and Wine Route as one of the initiatives put in place

to boost tourism in the province.

The initiative profiles 13 manufacturers of craft beer and wine

along the route, and encourages holidaymakers to explore the



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 73**

route to experience the province in a different way. The brewers

and distillers are situated along a route that spans Nelson

Mandela Bay, Jeffreys Bay, St Francis Bay, Storms River,

Makhanda, Port Alfred, Hogsback, Tsitsikamma and East London.

The ANC welcomes the over expansion and the problems that have

been implemented in the Eastern Cape: Development of tourism

plans through the District Development Model at OR Tambo and

Waterberg District. Piloting the budget resort network and brand

concept. Development of four township tourism precincts in

Vilakazi street; Galeshewe, Khayelitsha and Mdantsane.

Infrastructure maintenance programme in the 19 national parks.

The South African Tourism is encouraging the rotation of

national conferences and meetings to the smaller towns. In this

regard, five national business events will be hosted in these

locations as well as three national business.

In conclusion, Chairperson, I wish to support this particular

vote. I also wish to support the Minister. I wish to support the

Deputy Minister who in fact talk about hope. Now, I think hope

is an important thing for tourists to visit South Africa. There

are many people who always present a negative profile who will

not encourage tourists to come to South Africa. With that thank



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 74**

you very much and I want to thank the Minister for sending me

regards when I was in the hospital. Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF TOURISM: Chairperson, I would like to thank

the hon Dangor. I am very glad to see him looking 20 years

younger. I hope I contributed to that! It makes me feel good!

I would like to thank the members of the NCOP for taking the

time to engage with this matter at hand currently. I’m glad

that this session is happening in the NCOP as the tourism

sector thrives on municipal infrastructure. This is the domain

that you are responsible for. So I’m happy that you have taken

the time to take this debate seriously. Except of course for

the DA. The DA seems to think that this is a local government

campaign. It isn’t. It is about ordinary people’s lives. This

is why we are here.

First of all, I would like to say to the Deputy Minister that

I’m sorry that I did not realise that you were there. I should

have started with recognising you. Thank you for covering the

department so well in your input.

I’d like to go back to the DA and say to the hon Boshoff that,

during lockdown, I went to the opening of a boutique in



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 75**

Khayelitsha. It is a black-owned boutique. We invited people

to come and see what is possible under lockdown with our

support. I did not see you there. But, of course, for you,

those black areas are no-go areas. You don’t even what’s

happening there! They thrive ...

Ms H S BOSHOFF: We never received an invitation! Thank you

very much!

The MINISTER OF TOURISM: No. It was made very public.

Chairperson, I didn’t interrupt her when she spoke. Will you

protect me, please?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr A J Nyambi): You are protected,

Minister.

The MINISTER OF TOURISM: Thank you. In the Western Cape, there

wasn’t a single white person who was anywhere around

Khayelitsha. It shows you that it is possible for people to

make a living under the most difficult of conditions. If you

go to those areas where black people live, in areas where you

are in government, it is shocking. Absolutely shocking. Yet

you come here and you grandstand over nothing.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 76**

Nonetheless, I would like to say to the hon members of the

ANC, thank you so much for being here and being part of this

discussion. I’m very glad to know that you have such a passion

for this area, because it really needs a great deal of passion

to drive this. We have been under the most difficult,

catastrophic period that modern mankind has ever known. It

really took a great deal, both from the industry and

ourselves, to get us to where we are.

I want to say to the members of the ANC, please take time to

educate those people around you about the issue of tourism and

the value of tourism, especially because, when it is township-

based, we begin to see how we are able to share the wealth of

this country, as opposed to what is happening in the Western

Cape, where the wealth still remains in the hands of those

very lofty-thinking white people out there.

I want to indicate to most of you that we did do everything we

could as a department and all of those affected to go out and

clean up the beaches after the floods in KwaZulu-Natal. I

would like to thank those people who took part in that. That

was part of our interaction and support for the people who had

gone through the worst kind of climate change repercussions

that this country has ever experienced.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 77**

I’d like to say to hon Rayi, thank you so much for giving

members here a view of what it is that we have to do ... that

we have a budget that provides a stimulus to overcome

obstacles of COVID. That is what we have done. We have made

sure that the fiscus does allow us to put aside a certain

amount of money to ensure that those who are most affected are

supported to get back on their feet.

Do you know what happens? The likes of Boshoff and others take

us to court and they have won the first round. After winning

the first round partially, they have now taken us to court

again as we try to bring relief to those people who are most

affected – largely black people. So much for you and your

grandstanding.

I would have thought that you were coming here to a rally of

the DA to raise some kind of respectable spectre for the DA.

There is none. Just look around you. Just look around you and

look at the circumstances of black people in that areas trying

to make a living. Even as we talk about township tourism,

those that have been assisted you will find in Galashewe, in

Soweto, in other areas. Please go to Langa and make sure that

those people there are supported by you in the DA. Then we can

begin to talk on the same level.



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 78**

I find the unfounded accusations - that the department has

done nothing to boost tourism - absolutely absurd. You have a

tunnel vision of what is happening, and it is quite clear to

me that you come here to do absolutely nothing but just

grandstand. If you had any clever view about what it is that

we needed to do, you would have joined many of those people

who came. And I call them war room. Very passionate people

about this industry who came and said, Minister, how can we

help you. We’ve got these ideas. We put those ideas into

practice. And it has shown amazing results. It was good to

have those people come and work with us. Those were people who

are in the industry themselves and understand how the industry

was affected and understand how we jointly will be able to get

out of that particular situation. All of you here just come

here and grandstand. It was like you were primary school

teachers talking to your students. We are not your students.

We know this industry, much better than you do, from the side

of those who suffered most.

We want to join all of those who are concerned about the

solution and that solution has been very clearly articulated

by members of the ANC. Thank you very much for providing

those. Thank you very much for educating members of the House

about the fact that we had been on the e-visa and that that



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 79**

plan is very advanced. We are now making sure that we are able

to roll it out as fast as possible so that we are able to

invite most of the people that have been cut off because of

the restrictions.

We do understand the issue of crime and that crime has

escalated. We are very concerned about that. We now have

policy that will deal with crime and we are working with the

Airports Company of SA, Acsa, to ensure that we can do that.

We have also transformed the ... [Inaudible.] ... sector that

deals with tourist guides.

As I conclude, I am very happy that we have members of the ANC

here who are able to educate those members of the DA who are

still held back in 1910 and who have not come through to us.

This sector needs all of us. It needs all our ... [Inaudible.]

...

Ms H S BOSHOFF: Are you sure it’s not 1652?

The MINISTER OF TOURISM: You can go to sleep! You have no idea

what you are talking about. Thank you very much to members of

the ANC. Thank you. [Interjections.]



**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022**

**Page: 80**

An HON MEMBER: This Minister ... Absolutely mind blowing!

Intellectually lazy!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr A J Nyambi): Order! Let me take this

opportunity to thank the Minister, MECs, special delegates and

hon members.

Debate concluded.

The Council adjourned at 16.11.

