**Budget Vote Debate on Adjusted Tourism Budget:**

1. Chairperson, the tourism sector has by all intents and purposes grinded to a halt since the beginning of the lockdown. Many jobs have been lost already, and the country has lost significant revenue.
2. The lockdown will eventually come to an end, and the country will open once more. But what kind of tourism sector will we have by then? What actions are you taking today to ensure that the sector that emerges post lockdown is fundamentally different from the untransformed sector we have at the moment?
3. This sector still remains a highly constricted sector, controlled by only a few white people, and excludes the majority of our people. It is white people who own lodges, who own nature reserves, and who are in control of even State owned nature reserves. It is these people who benefit from tourism.
4. Tourists still come to the same destinations, controlled by the old boys club. We have not been able to diversify our tourist’s attractions to the rest of the country. Tourists still come mainly to three provinces, the Western Cape, Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal.
5. We have immense potential to diversity this sector to other provinces, such as the Eastern Cape, Limpopo and Mpumalanga, for those interested in historical and heritage tourism. We have not been able expand the sector because the very nature of the South African economy favours those who have accumulated property in the past.
6. Further, there are no consequences for those resisting transformation in the sector. They are aided by the government in excluding black people from the industry. The stringent regulations put in place as entry requirements into the sector are exclusionary, leaving this sector for only white people, who have the land and capital.
7. The overall Black participation is at less than 48%, Black women Ownership is at less 10%. Black Participants are only found in provinces such as Limpopo and Mpumalanga, while the Western Cape, KZN and Gauteng are mainly dominated by White Participants.
8. This revised budget has taken away R1billion from programmes which in the main were going to Assist in transformation of the Industry
9. This revised budget is going to hit the very little transformation objectives of the department in a very bad way.
10. It is also documented that serious Tourism in South Africa is taking place in the urban areas more, particularly in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban; and not in the poor small towns, villages, and townships where poverty sis most prevalent
11. You have adjusted downwards the budget allocation for destination development by about R16 million. This is regrettable as it shows that your priority is on existing tourist destinations, which are largely owned and beneficial to white people.
12. The reduction of the budget allocated to the capacity building programme will also mean a serious blow to emerging industry participants.
13. There are immediate things that could be done to address the skewed nature of ownership in this industry.
14. You could become firmer in forcing national parks and state owned nature reserves to work exclusively with black owned tourist companies and establishments.
15. Government could also make it law that state officials only use black owned establishments for their accommodation, conferences and events.
16. You are not doing any of these things because you have this disdainful attitude towards black owned establishments.
17. We reject this budget