

## Debate Vote 38: Tourism:

Thank you very Honourable Chair.

Honourable Chair Al Jama-ah supports this budget. We welcome the R87.1 billion over the Medium Term set aside to boost and promote small, medium and micro enterprises, which include women and youth, as well as the further financial assistance to the fund to enhance and capacitate black owned tourism enterprises.

Honourable Chair, the 300 million set aside for tourism safety should be of large benefit to SMMEs who are situated in high-risk areas. As much as we need safety monitors in national parks, botanical gardens, SMMEs also need safety monitors to help them get customers.

The Minister recently expressed a need for a united front comprising of government, private sector and tourism stakeholders to help tourism grow in the country. Recent statistics for the first quarter reveal a promising growth in tourism to South Africa. So, we like to commend the Minister and the Portfolio Committee for that.

I've also been encouraged by the Deputy Minister who's fast tracking e-visas. As you know, Honourable chair, my ancestors come from Indonesia. They want to visit. When you go to Indonesia, you get a visa on arrival, but they have to go through the process of applying. They want to come to Cape Town. AND when I spoke to the ambassadors, they said that 10 million Indonesians want to come to Cape Town, but they come into Cape Town for the wrong reasons. Obviously, they want to visit us, their offspring, but they think that Cape Town in the streets of Cape Town is elephants and lions. So, the Minister of Tourism was a former mayor of Cape Town, can maybe assist that we have some lions and elephants walking the streets of Cape Town.

But I want to use my last minute to promote my Mpame Village. There are twelve operators in Mpame Village, which is a fishing village close to Umtata. President Thabo Mbeki was born in that precinct. They need their huts to be upgraded to six-star level to attract tourism and especially those interested in. So, will the Minister consider assisting these twelve enterprises in Mpame Village. The Minister must not just focus on the metro areas, she must also focus on villages. That was the wish of President Ramaphosa when he was elected president in his State of the Nation Address and that was the first instruction President Ramaphosa gave to the new Deputy President to work in the villages. I hope the Minister will start with Mpame village and Al Jama-ah is prepared.