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**MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY:**

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**Mr J Vos (DA) to ask the Minister of Tourism**

Whether she has made any remedial commitments such as a return holiday trip to the 36 Dutch tourists who were recently robbed at gunpoint while visiting the country; if not, does she plan to put in place any remedial commitments in this regard; if so, (a) what are the relevant details of the commitment, (b) what amount will the commitment cost and (c) how will the commitment be financed? NW4101E

**Reply:**

No, the Minister did not make any remedial commitment.

The department is guided by provisions in the Laws and Regulations that govern the management of Public Finances. In this regard, there are no provisions for insurance related or associated support that can be provided by the department. This position also takes into account the unsustainable nature of such support from a financial point of view. It is for this reason that most travellers procure travel insurance covers, which ensures that they are covered in case of emergencies.

However, the tourist can be offered excursions to attractions, in partnership with other government entities and attractions operators. The role of private sector is also critical when it comes to contractual implications for the tourists in terms of operator/s’ commission and associated package expenses.

The department is currently working with all relevant stakeholders to put together a National Coordinating Forum to ensure a coordinated and swift response to such incidences. Added to that, and in the spirit of caring for our tourists, will be the establishment of a “Victim Support Programme” with the main purpose of providing aftercare support to such victims while they are still in the country. This will be done in conjunction with relevant stakeholders where the department will among other things, facilitate the following:

* Facilitate consular and embassy involvement and contacting families and friends.
* Feedback on the progress regarding the progress on apprehending the perpetrators and bringing them to book will be done through the embassy.

1. Not applicable

1. Not applicable
2. Not applicable