Honourable Chairperson,

The Mandate of the Department of Tourism is to promote and develop the tourism sector in all aspects while ensuring responsible tourism for the benefit of the country.

Tourism South Africa, the marketing arm of the Department must promote the country as a destination domestically and internationally and so-doing advance all forms of tourism in the country.

The tourism sector contributes more than R270 billion to the South African economy per year. It indirectly promotes infrastructure development, contributes to foreign exchange earnings, job creation, global connectivity, cultural and heritage development and the list goes on. So, the importance of this industry should not be underestimated or undervalued.

However, in stead of government acknowledging and growing the potential of this sector by creating favourable circumstances for tourism in South Africa to flourish it has decreased the budget of Tourism South Africa by more than 50 % - effectively saying we want less marketing for South African Tourism both internationally and domestically.

Agbare voorsitter, die aangepaste begroting vir die department van toerisme is in wese ontoereikend en sal ‘n reeds sukkelende industrie verder op sy knieë dwing.

The tourism sector is one with unmeasurable potential. We have one of the most beautiful countries in the world. From Cape Town in the South to the northern most border lies unexplored and uncharted tourism opportunities that can flourish and contribute enormously to the South African economy if government takes interest in this important market. Priorities should be directed at promoting and supporting this industry, especially during these trying times of Covid19, so it can prosper and contribute to job creation, prosperity and sustainable economic growth post-Covid19.

Agbare voorsitter, om volhoubare ekonomiese groei, werkskepping en vooruitgang veral na afloop van die verlamende ramptoestand te verseker sal die regering met daad en mening in die toerismesektor moet belê.

Belê in die sektor deur meer hulp te verleen. Hou op om op grond van ras te diskrimineer wanneer finansiële hulp verleen word. Alle toerisme-ondernemings, ongeag ras, dra by tot die Suid-Afrikaanse ekonomie. Alle toerisme-ondernemings dra by tot werkskepping en sorg dat Suid-Afrikaners, ongeag ras, in staat gestel word om vir hul gesinne te sorg.

Belê in die sektor deur te beding vir regulasies wat sommige klein besighede kan red.

Belê in die sektor deur te beding vir meer uitkomste soos spesiale belastingkortings op munisipale en nasionale vlak.

Belê in die bemarking van hierdie sektor, want ons sal Covid19 oorwin en dan moet belangstelling in Suid-Afrikaanse toerisme reeds geprikkel wees. En indien u tenderbedrog en uitbuiting deur diensverskaffers stopsit sal die bemarking van Suid-Afrika as ‘n bestemming nie miljarde kos nie. Dit moet effektief en innoverend geskied.

Honourable Chair,

Government does not consider the tourism sector to be a priority and should wake up and see that the tourism-plane is falling out of the sky.

The Freedom Front Plus wants to challenge government to save the falling plane, hear the whistles and act before it is too late.

We might have a government that only wants to prioritise issues that can get the ANC votes in the next election, but if this sector crashes, they will have to explain the economic loss of R 273 Billion that the sector is responsible for, the loss of 740 000 direct and more than 1.5 million indirect jobs across the value chain.

Dus sluit ek af deur ‘n beroep te doen op die regering, raak nou ontslae van voorskriftelike en diskriminerende wetgewing, sit skouer aan die wiel en vind oplossings met toerisme as belangrike rolspeler in die ekonomie. Sien toe dat kleinsake-ondernemings gered word deur regulasies daar te stel wat eerder help om die toerisme ekonomie te onsluit, almal in die sektor is gretig om saam te werk, gretig om hierdie sektor weer te bou.

Ons almal is trots Suid Afrikaans hoekom dan nie saamtrek nie.

Dankie.