



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES  
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**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE  
NCOP, HON. MNINWA MAHLANGU, DURING “TOURISM  
SUMMIT”, OLD ASSEMBLY CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT,  
CAPE TOWN.**

***-28 February 2011***

Programme Director

Minister of Tourism Hon Martinus van Schalkwyk

Deputy Minister Hon Tokozile Xasa

Honourable Members of Parliament

Distinguished and Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me start by thanking all of you for having shelved all your important tasks to be with us here today for this Summit. It is indeed an honour and privilege for me to welcome such an esteemed group of people to this beautiful city of Cape Town and Parliament in particular.

On behalf of Parliament of the Republic of South Africa I want to welcome you and assure you that Parliament embraces this Summit and wants it to be a pioneer for a new way of thinking. This is more so because today when one thinks about tourism one must also think

about the other sectors that are linked to it: the economy, philosophy, ecology, sociology, archaeology, science, technology, leisure, culture, communications, the arts, sport and so on.

It is when one deals with these concomitant sectors, in addition to tourism, that one really derives the maximum benefits out of the tourism sector.

The World Tourism Organization defines **tourists** as people who “travel to and stay in places outside their usual environment for more than twenty-four (24) hours and not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.” So if this definition is anything to go by it means we have many of the participants and guests here today who are tourists. And for that we’d like to say “may you enjoy your tourist status and stay in Cape Town.”

Tourism involves travelling and travel is one of the best forms of freedom. This is so because the health of the entire world depends on the presupposition that people and goods can move freely around the world. So as the country that prides itself in the strides and struggle for freedom we have a special interest in tourism as an epitome of freedom.

This Summit could not have come at a better time. During his State-of-the-Nation Address on 10 February 2011 President Jacob Zuma indicated that the government intends to create jobs in six priority

areas and tourism is one of them. This is in line with the government's declaration of 2011 as a year of job creation through meaningful economic transformation and inclusive growth. So it is good to have this Summit now while this commitment by government is still fresh in our minds – *si ebamba esa shisa!*

In his Address the President also indicated that sixteen tourists create one job in our country. This shows how crucial this sector is to the government's aim of creating jobs. It also augurs well with the sotho phrase "*moeng e tla ka geso re tle re je ka wena*". So we have to do our best to encourage as many tourists as possible to visit South Africa.

Today it is suggested that there is a strong correlation between tourism expenditure per capita and the degree to which countries play in the global context. Not only as a result of the important economic contribution of the tourism industry, but also as an indicator of the degree of confidence with which global citizens leverage the resources of the globe for the benefit of their local economies. As such any projections of growth in tourism serve as an indication of the relative influence that each country will exercise in the future. This is how important tourism has become today.

Tourism is the world's largest earner of foreign currency. According to Statistics South Africa (Stats-SA), in South Africa it attracts 0.2% of the annual estimated 300 million tourists in the world. It brings an estimated 20 billion Rand (R) (US \$3.1 billion) into the economy,

second only to manufacturing and mining in its contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP); or in other words, it contributes about 8.2% to South Africa's GDP on average.

#### Programme Director

There is no doubt that after the successful hosting of the FIFA World Cup 2010 the image of tourism in South Africa has turned around and we need to sustain this good image. This is most likely to occur with proper management and planning, at all levels – local, provincial and national. So events like this Summit are important for us to sustain our tourism industry and help to alleviate poverty in South Africa.

Of more important to us as Parliament the President, during the State-of-the-Nation Address, said: “we have a Parliament that is vibrant and holds the executive accountable.” In light of this affirmation we should continue to proactively oversee the government’s actions to ensure that the commitments the President made during the State-of-the-Nation Address are indeed carried out.

The President alluded to the fact that creation of jobs cannot be done by government alone. All stakeholders need to do their bit. As Parliament we also want to commit ourselves that we will do our bit as “activist Parliament” to ensure that our people get jobs and therefore better lives.

We will as such recommend that the tourism through which the government intends to create jobs must in the main be “pro-poor

tourism". That is, it must help the very poorest of our people in developing themselves after the tourists have left. This can be, for example, through small scale projects in local communities and so on, that are legacies of particular visits.

There is no doubt that tourism can be a powerful instrument of regional policy and, being locally based and available even to the most remote rural areas, it offers significant jobs and income opportunities. It also offers rural communities the opportunity to benefit economically from their culture and environment and to compensate for the absence of a manufacturing or industrial base.

So when we discuss and share information during this Summit we must always think of various ways in which we can make tourism beneficial to the poor.

My wish is to see this Summit graduate from a largely information-sharing and networking forum to one that will allocate a significant time to partnering the government in its endeavours of job creation. So if needs be this must be an annual event. However, the next summit must be primarily to assess and review progress made since this one.

Once again I bid you all welcome and look forward to an inspiring exchange of views.

I thank you