

Thank you, Honourable House Chair/Chairperson,

Greetings to the honourable members in this Mini Plenary together with the ministers and deputy minister the department executed and SA Tourism Board.

The Budget Vote 38 is tabled and debated during the month of July that coincide with the birthday month of president Mandela equally this current government of national unity in this 7th term of parliament is similar to that of President Mandela we dare not fail our voters.

The Budget Vote38 together with the 2024/2025 Annual Performance Plan of the **Department of Tourism** in to this 7th term of Parliament was tabled by the Department in a form briefing and the committee interrogated, deliberated and finally adopted the report on the 15 July 2024. Further the committee made its own recommendations and considerations. The Committee appreciated work done by the 6th Term parliamentary committee on tourism and the re-appointment of the same Minister to the 7th term of the GNU to Tourism Department paired with the one of the longest serving Deputy Minister that would assist on the smooth running. It is worth noting that the Department and South Africa Tourism still implement number of projects that are pro-poor which includes the Working for Tourism Infrastructure Projects and various skills training.

Our second observation was that the department appropriated about 52% of its total budget to South Africa Tourism. The department budget allocation over the Medium-Term will see an increase from R 2,5 billion

in 2023/24 to R2,6 Billion in 2026/27 that includes transfers to South African Tourism. We Commit ourselves to monitor the spending of this budget in making sure that the money does follow function as the bulk of it is for the marketing of the country and implementation of projects by the Entity and Department.

The Policy Mandate of the department derives from the Constitution and the Tourism Act no3 of 2014. This Includes the White Paper on Development and Promotions of Tourism of 1996 and other key policies including Economic Reconstruction and Recovering plan (ERRP) which was adopted as a Master Plan in 2023 and the Medium- Term Strategic Framework (MTSF:2019-2024).The National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 VISION for our country recognises Tourism as one of the main drivers of the employment, creation and economic growth. We call upon Private Sector to make meaningful contributions on the sustainability of our Tourism industry which is mainly funded by Government in making sure together we can achieve more.

Hon Chairperson,

On the Department Deliverables planned for the 2024/25 financial year, we would hold their Monitoring and Evaluation of Infrastructure projects and skills development initiatives that impact on Blacks in general and Africans in particular, including prioritization of Women, Youth and as well as People with Disabilities in Tourism. The Department continues in its endeavours to promote transformation in the sector. This is evidenced by the opening of applications for the R 1.2 billion Tourism Equity Fund, which is targeted at emerging entrepreneurs.

We encourage SMMEs to access Incentives Programmes offered by the department. This includes the Green Tourism Incentives Programmes which offered Funding for SMMEs to save on both water and energy resources. We urge the department to improve awareness and assist SMMEs on the process of acquiring this fund.

We recognise the department efforts towards challenges that were faced during Covid-19 through the Tourism Sector Recovery Plan, which was adopted into a Master Plan in 2023.

The Committee supports the hosting of a Workshop by the department in 2025 on the sharing best practices target at African Countries with whom South African sign Tourism Agreement and Strategic Formations over the Medium-Term, and these will be Monitored. The Department should emphasise on the importance of Provinces and Municipalities to priorities budgeting for their own Resorts and Common Brands. These can be easily done through District Development Models (DDM)

The Grading Incentives Support Programme that assists SMMEs to grow their Tourism Business must feature in all Departmental Quarterly reports to the Committee. We look Forward to further infrastructure skilled development and Incentives Programme and be taken through on details in our future meetings when the time comes.

As I Conclude, we continue to edge the department to fulfil its mandate despite limited resources. Increase will follow when all budget allocated are spend and fully accounted for and translated to projects that are of benefit to South African Voters.

I Thank You

