

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY**  
**QUESTION NUMBER: 695 [NO3495E]**  
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**★695.Ms O M C Maotwe (EFF) to ask the Minister of Finance:**

Considering that there are 12 million unemployed persons in the Republic, yet in his Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement he spoke of the introduction of the eVisa as one of the achievements of Operation Vulindlela, (a) how will allowing foreign nationals to come and work in the Republic strengthen the economy to be more productive and foster much-needed job creation and (b) how will the introduction of the eVisa will affect his target of 1 million jobs?  
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**REPLY**

- The e-Visa system will not enable tourists from China and India to work in South Africa as tourism is a distinct category from work visas. The use of enhanced e-Visas for tourists from countries like China and India will improve transparency, combat corruption, and speed up processing times to attract more tourists from these burgeoning source markets. In 2023, China recorded over 100 million outbound travellers. South Africa received only 93 000 of those tourists. Digital transformation of the visa process is key to growing that number and creating many more jobs in the tourism sector. In line with standard procedures around the world, holders of tourist visas – whether in paper or digital format – are not allowed to work while in the country.
- As a distinct category, the attraction of skills into the economy is governed by the new points-based adjudication system for critical skills and work visas. This reform too will substantially enhance transparency, combat fraud and corruption, and enhance the attraction of vitally-needed skills. Work by National Treasury and Operation Vulindlela has found that the skills shortage is the second biggest impediment to economic growth, after load shedding. We are committed to unlocking the economic power of both tourism and skills – but these two categories are distinct and should not be conflated.