This Act has been updated to Government Gazette 37719 dated 6 June, 2014.

ACT

To provide for the development and promotion of sustainable tourism for the benefit of the Republic, its residents and its visitors; to provide for the continued existence of the South African Tourism Board; to provide for the establishment of the Tourism Grading Council; to regulate the tourist guide profession; to repeal certain laws; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

PREAMBLE

SINCE tourism in South Africa has grown considerably since the country’s first democratic election;

AND SINCE inadequate, uncoordinated, inconsistent and fragmented tourism planning and information provision is the most pervasive challenge facing the development and growth of tourism in the Republic;

AND SINCE transformation is vital to ensure the sustainable growth and development of the tourism sector;

AND SINCE these challenges are best addressed through a concerted effort by all spheres of government and the private sector to work together to create an environment that is conducive to the sustainable growth, development and transformation of tourism,

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Transitional provisions and savings

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PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA therefore enacts as follows:—

### CHAPTER 1
**INTERPRETATION AND OBJECTS**
1. **Definitions.**—In this Act, unless the context indicates otherwise—

“Board” means the South African Tourism Board contemplated in [section 9](#);

“Consumer Protection Act” means the Consumer Protection Act, 2008 ([Act No. 68 of 2008](#));

“Council” means the Tourism Grading Council established by [section 29](#);

“Department” means the national Department responsible for tourism;

“Director-General” means the Director-General of the Department;

“MEC” means the member of the executive council of a province who is responsible for tourism in that province;

“Minister” means the Cabinet member responsible for tourism;

“National Registrar” means the National Registrar of Tourist Guides contemplated in [section 48 (1)](#);

“national tourism sector strategy” means the national tourism sector strategy contemplated in [section 4](#);

“organ of state” has the meaning assigned to it in [section 239](#) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996;

“prescribed” means prescribed by regulation;

“Provincial Registrar” means a Provincial Registrar of Tourist Guides contemplated in [section 49 (1)](#);

“Public Finance Management Act” means the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 ([Act No. 1 of 1999](#));

“regulation” means a regulation made by the Minister under this Act;

“this Act” includes the norms and standards contemplated in [section 7](#) and the regulations;

“Tourism Complaints Officer” means the Tourism Complaints Officer designated as such by the Minister under [section 45](#); and

“tourist guide” means any person registered as such under [section 50](#) and who for reward accompanies any person who travels within or visits any place within the Republic and who furnishes such person with information or comments.

2. **Objects of Act.**—(1) The objects of this Act are to—

(a) promote the practising of responsible tourism, contemplated in [subsection (2)](#), for the benefit of the Republic and for the enjoyment of all its residents and foreign visitors;

(b) provide for the effective domestic and international marketing of South Africa as a tourist destination;

(c) promote quality tourism products and services;

(d) promote growth in and development of the tourism sector; and

(e) enhance cooperation and coordination between all spheres of government in developing and managing tourism.

(2) Responsible tourism is tourism which—

(a) seeks to avoid negative economic, environmental and social impacts;

(b) generates greater economic benefits for local people, enhances the well-being of host communities and improves working conditions and access to the tourism sector;

(c) involves local people in decisions that affect their lives;

(d) makes positive contributions to the conservation of natural and cultural heritage and to the maintenance of the world’s diversity;

(e) provides enjoyable experiences for tourists through meaningful connections with local people and a greater understanding of local cultural, social and environmental issues;

(f) provides access for physically challenged people; and

(g) is culturally sensitive, engenders respect between tourists and hosts, and builds local pride and confidence.

3. **Conflict with other laws and binding force of Act.**—(1) In the event of any conflict between this Act and—

(a) other national legislation in force immediately prior to the date of commencement of this Act, this Act
prevails if the conflict specifically concerns the management and development of tourism;
(b) provincial legislation, the conflict must be resolved in terms of section 146 of the Constitution; and
(c) a municipal by-law, this Act prevails.
(2) This Act binds all organs of state—
(a) in the national and local spheres of government; and
(b) in the provincial sphere of government, subject to section 146 of the Constitution.

CHAPTER 2
NATIONAL TOURISM SECTOR STRATEGY, NORMS AND STANDARDS, CODES OF GOOD PRACTICE

4. National tourism sector strategy.—(1) The Minister must by notice in the Gazette and after following the consultation process contemplated in subsection (3), adopt a national tourism sector strategy to promote the objects of this Act.

(2) The national tourism sector strategy must at least make provision for strategies, objectives, indicators, targets, plans, guidelines, procedures and institutional arrangements and intergovernmental coordination with provincial and local spheres of government relating to the promotion, development and transformation of tourism.

(3) Before adopting the national tourism sector strategy in terms of subsection (1), the Minister must—
(a) give notice of the proposed national tourism sector strategy in the Gazette;
(b) invite members of the public to submit to the Minister, within the period determined in the notice, written representations regarding the proposed national tourism sector strategy;
(c) take such further steps as may be necessary to bring the contents of the proposed national tourism sector strategy to the attention of interested persons; and
(d) consider any written representations received.

(4) (a) The Minister may review and, if necessary, adjust the national tourism sector strategy.

(b) Before adjusting the national tourism sector strategy the Minister must follow a consultative process and for that purpose subsection (3) applies with the changes required by the context.

(5) The Minister and relevant organs of state must give effect to the national tourism sector strategy when performing any function in terms of this Act.

5. National tourism information and monitoring system.—The Minister must establish a national tourism information and monitoring system for—

(a) collecting, recording, managing, analysing and disseminating information and data on tourism; and
(b) monitoring developments and trends in tourism.

6. Information on tourism businesses.—(1) The Minister may for purposes of planning, and with a view to the development and growth in the tourism sector, establish and maintain a database of information on tourism businesses.

(2) The Minister may for the purposes of subsection (1), by notice in the Gazette, determine the categories of tourism businesses that may provide information, and may in this regard determine—

(a) the period within which information is to be provided;
(b) the form and manner for providing information;
(c) the information which must be provided, which must, in relation to each tourism business, at least include—
   (i) the name and form of the tourism business;
   (ii) the geographical area of operation;
   (iii) the nature of services, facilities or products it provides;
   (iv) particulars relating to the classification and grading of the tourism business;
   (v) statistics and information of the services, facilities or products it offers; and
   (vi) information as to the extent it provides facilities which are accessible to people with disabilities,
The place and manner for the submission of information, which may include submitting the information to any organ of state; and

any other information which may be required for the purpose of the database; and

the type of recognition and incentives that may accrue to tourism businesses which may provide information in terms of this section.

(3) The Minister may make different determinations under subsection (2) in respect of different categories of tourism services, facilities and products.

(4) A determination that information be submitted to an organ of state must be made with the concurrence of the organ of state concerned.

(5) For purposes of a comprehensive database of information, nothing in this section prevents the Minister from collecting information about tourism businesses from any other source.

7. Norms and standards for tourism.—(1) The Minister may, by notice in the Gazette and after following the consultation process contemplated in subsection (2), determine—

(a) norms and standards for—

(i) practising responsible tourism contemplated in section 2 (2);

(ii) achieving service excellence in the tourism sector;

(iii) promoting the objects of this Act; and

(iv) the provisioning of tourism information services to the public; and

(b) indicators to measure compliance with such norms and standards.

(2) Before determining norms and standards under subsection (1), the Minister must—

(a) consult with the MEC’s on the norms and standards;

(b) give notice of the proposed norms and standards in—

(i) the Gazette;

(ii) at least two newspapers published and circulating nationally; and

(iii) a newspaper published and circulating in each province;

(c) invite members of the public to submit to the Minister, within the period determined in the notice, written representations regarding the proposed norms and standards; and

(d) consider any written representations received.

(3) Organs of state, including any institution established by government to exercise tourism functions, must apply the norms and standards determined under subsection (1) in the performance of their functions.

(4) The norms and standards contemplated in subsection (1) (a) (iv) may relate to matters such as—

(i) the form of business and management that must be applied;

(ii) business hours;

(iii) facilities that must be available;

(iv) staff and training requirements;

(v) information and displays that must be offered; and

(vi) signage and identification that must be used.

8. Codes of good practice for tourism.—The Minister may, by notice in the Gazette, issue codes of good practice to—

(a) guide conduct relating to tourism services, facilities and products;

(b) guide conduct of organs of state responsible for developing and managing tourism; and

(c) promote the achievement of the objects of this Act.
9. **Continued existence of South African Tourism Board.**—The South African Tourism Board, established by section 2 of the Tourism Act, 1993 (Act No. 72 of 1993), continues to exist as a juristic person despite the repeal of that Act by section 62.

10. **Functions of Board.**—(1) The functions of the Board are to—

(a) market South Africa as a domestic and international tourist destination;

(b) market South African tourism products and facilities internationally and domestically;

(c) develop and implement a marketing strategy for tourism that promotes—

(i) the objects of this Act; and

(ii) the national tourism sector strategy;

(d) advise the Minister on any other matter relating to tourism marketing;

(e) with the approval of the Minister, establish a National Conventions Bureau to market South Africa as a business tourism destination by—

(i) coordinating bidding for international conventions; and

(ii) liaising with other organs of state and suitable bodies to promote South Africa as a business tourism destination; and

(f) report to the Minister on the work performance of the National Conventions Bureau.

(2) The Board must perform any function imposed upon it in accordance with a policy direction not in conflict with this Act issued by the Minister.

11. **Powers of Board.**—Without derogating from its power generally to perform legal acts as a juristic person, the Board may—

(a) with the approval of the Minister open and operate such offices within or outside the Republic which may be necessary for the effective performance of its functions;

(b) with the approval of the Minister, granted with the concurrence of the Cabinet member responsible for finance, borrow money from a money lending institution in the Republic;

(c) insure the Board against—

(i) any loss, damage or risk;

(ii) any liability it may incur in the application of this Act;

(d) employ persons who are necessary for the performance of the functions of the Board;

(e) conclude agreements with organs of state and other persons.

12. **Delegations and assignments by Board.**—(1) The Board may in writing and subject to such conditions as it may determine, delegate or assign any of its powers or duties in terms of this Act—

(a) to any committee of the Board;

(b) to an employee of the Board; or

(c) with the concurrence of the Minister, to any other suitable body.

(2) A delegation or assignment under subsection (1)—

(a) must be in writing;

(b) does not divest the Board of the power delegated or duty assigned;

(c) does not prevent the Board from exercising the power or performing the duty so delegated or assigned; and

(d) may at any time be withdrawn by the Board.
13. Composition of Board.—(1) The Board consists of—

(a) at least nine and no more than 13 members appointed by the Minister on the basis of their knowledge, experience or qualifications relating to the functions of the Board; and

(b) one officer of the Department appointed by the Minister to represent the Department.

(2) The member of the Board contemplated in subsection (1) (b)—

(a) is a non-voting member of the Board; and

(b) may not be appointed as chairperson or deputy chairperson of the Board.

(3) (a) Before appointing the members of the Board contemplated in subsection (1) (a), the Minister must, by notice in the Gazette and in two newspapers published and circulating nationally, invite nominations for membership of the Board.

(b) The notice must specify a period of at least 30 days for nominations to be submitted to the Minister.

(4) When appointing the members of the Board, the Minister must ensure that the Board is broadly representative of society, with due regard to race, gender and disability.

(5) After appointing the members of the Board the Minister must, by notice in the Gazette and in two newspapers published and circulating nationally, publish the names of the persons appointed and the dates of commencement of their terms of office.

(6) If the Minister receives no nominations or an insufficient number of nominations within the period specified in the invitation, the Minister may, subject to subsections (4) and (5), appoint the required number of persons.

(7) The Minister must appoint one member of the Board as chairperson and another as deputy chairperson of the Board.

14. Term of office of members of Board.—(1) A member of the Board contemplated in section 13 (1) (a) holds office for a period of three years from the date of his or her appointment.

(2) Despite subsection (1), the Minister may by notice in the Gazette extend the period of office of any member of the Board for a maximum period of 12 months.

(3) Any person whose period of office has expired is eligible for reappointment.

(4) No person may be appointed as chairperson of the Board for more than two consecutive terms.

15. Disqualification from membership of Board.—(1) A person may not be appointed as a member of the Board if that person—

(a) is not a South African citizen and ordinarily resident in the Republic;

(b) is an unrehabilitated insolvent;

(c) is disqualified under any law from practising that person's profession;

(d) has been convicted of an offence in the Republic, other than an offence committed prior to 27 April 1994 associated with political objectives, and sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine or, in the case of fraud or any other offence involving dishonesty, to a fine or imprisonment or both;

(e) subject to subsection (2), has been convicted of an offence in a foreign country and sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine or, in the case of fraud or any other offence involving dishonesty, to a fine or imprisonment or both; or

(f) has at any time been removed from an office of trust on account of breach of a fiduciary duty.

(2) An offence contemplated in subsection (1) (e) must constitute an offence in the Republic.

16. Vacation of office and filling of vacancies.—(1) A member of the Board must vacate office if the member—

(a) resigns by written notice addressed and delivered to the Minister and the chairperson of the Board;

(b) ceases to hold any qualification necessary for that member's appointment to the Board;

(c) is unable to perform his or her functions due to mental illness or severe or profound intellectual disability contemplated in the Mental Health Act, 2002 (Act No. 17 of 2002);

(d) becomes subject to any disqualification contemplated in section 15; or

(e) is removed from office by the Minister, after consulting the Board, on good cause shown.
(2) If for any reason the office of a member of the Board becomes vacant before the member’s term of office expires, the Minister may appoint any suitably qualified person to fill the vacancy for the unexpired portion of the period for which such member was appointed.

(3) (a) The Minister may on good cause shown dissolve the Board by way of notice in the Gazette and appoint a new Board in accordance with section 13.

(b) If the Board is dissolved in terms of paragraph (a) the Minister may defer the reconstitution of the Board and, in the notice by which the Minister has so dissolved the Board or by any subsequent notice in the Gazette, appoint one or more persons, on such conditions as the Minister may deem necessary, to manage the affairs of the Board until the appointment of the new Board.

17. Remuneration of members of Board.—A member of the Board who is not in the full-time employment of the State may be paid such remuneration and allowances as may be determined by the Minister with the approval of the Cabinet member responsible for finance.

18. Board meetings.—(1) The Board must hold at least four ordinary meetings every year.

(2) The chairperson of the Board—

(a) may convene a special meeting of the Board; and

(b) must convene a special meeting within 14 days of receiving a written request to do so, signed by a majority of the members.

(3) The request contemplated in subsection (2) (b) must clearly state the reason for the request, and only that matter may be discussed at the special meeting.

(4) The Minister may at any time request a meeting with the Board, should the need arise.

(5) If the chairperson and deputy chairperson are not present at any meeting of the Board the members present must appoint another member to preside at the meeting.

(6) The quorum for any meeting of the Board is a majority of the voting members of the Board in office at the time.

(7) (a) A decision of the majority of the voting members of the Board at any quorate meeting constitutes a decision of the Board.

(b) In the event of an equality of votes the chairperson has a casting vote in addition to his or her deliberative vote.

(8) A member of the Board who has any personal or financial interest in any matter before the Board must disclose that interest and withdraw from the proceedings of the Board when that matter is considered.

(9) No decision taken by or act performed on the authority of the Board shall be invalid merely because of a casual vacancy on the Board or because any person who was not entitled to sit as a member of the Board, sat as a member at the time when the decision was taken or the act was authorised, provided the decision was taken or the act was authorised by a majority of the members of the Board who were then present and were entitled to sit as members.

19. Conduct of meetings.—(1) The Board may make rules to regulate its proceedings.

(2) Minutes of proceedings of every meeting of the Board must be—

(a) recorded and kept in a manner that cannot be altered or tampered with; and

(b) submitted to the next meeting of the Board for consideration and, if adopted, signed by the chairperson.

(3) The Board may—

(a) permit members to participate in a particular meeting by means of a conference call or audio-visual technology and a member who participates in this manner is regarded as being present at the meeting; and

(b) invite a person to attend a meeting for the purpose of advising or informing the Board on any matter.

20. Resolution without meeting.—(1) The Board may adopt a resolution without a meeting if at least a majority of the members in office at the time indicate their support for the resolution in accordance with a procedure previously established by the Board.

(2) A resolution in terms of subsection (1) —
21. Funds of Board.—(1) The funds of the Board consist of—
   (a) monies appropriated by Parliament for that purpose;
   (b) any money paid to the Board for services rendered;
   (c) any money received by way of donation; and
   (d) any other amounts to which the Board is or may become entitled.

   (2) The Board may use its funds for defraying expenditure incurred in performing its functions in terms of this Act.

   (3) The Board may invest any of its funds not immediately required—
      (a) subject to any investment policy that may be prescribed in terms of the Public Finance Management Act; and
      (b) in such manner as the Minister may approve.

   (4) The Board may charge and recover fees for any services rendered.

22. Application of Public Finance Management Act to Board.—The Public Finance Management Act applies to the Board.

23. Committees of Board.—The Board may establish any committee to assist the Board in the performance of its functions and must determine its composition and terms of reference.

24. Appointment and responsibilities of chief executive officer of Board.—(1) The Board, acting with the concurrence of the Minister, must appoint a suitably qualified person as chief executive officer.

   (2) The chief executive officer—
      (a) is appointed for a period not exceeding five years; and
      (b) may be reappointed by the Board with the concurrence of the Minister.

   (3) The chief executive officer holds office on such terms and conditions, including those relating to remuneration and allowances, as the Board may determine in accordance with the policy contemplated in section 27(1).

   (4) The chief executive officer is responsible for the efficient management of the business and affairs of the Board and must perform any function delegated or assigned by the Board.

25. Employment contract and performance agreement of chief executive officer.—(1) The Board and the chief executive officer must conclude a written contract of employment which must incorporate in an appropriate form the provisions of section 57 of the Public Finance Management Act.

   (2) The Board and the chief executive officer must conclude a performance agreement—
      (a) as soon as reasonably practicable but within three months after the appointment of the chief executive officer; and
      (b) thereafter, annually within one month of the commencement of each financial year.

   (3) The performance agreement must include—
      (a) measurable work performance objectives and targets that must be met by the chief executive officer, and the time frames within which those performance objectives and targets must be met;
      (b) standards and procedures for evaluating the work performance of the chief executive officer and intervals for evaluation; and
      (c) the consequences for substandard work performance.
26. **Resignation and dismissal of chief executive officer and appointment of acting chief executive officer.**—(1) The Board, after giving the chief executive officer an opportunity to be heard, and acting with the concurrence of the Minister, may dismiss the chief executive officer for any lawful reason.

   (2) The chief executive officer may resign by notice in writing to the Minister and the Board.

   (Editorial Note: Wording as per original Government Gazette.)

   (3) If the chief executive officer is for any reason absent or unable to carry out his or her duties, or if a vacancy in the office of the chief executive officer occurs, the Board may, with the concurrence of the Minister, appoint a suitably qualified person to act as chief executive officer until the chief executive officer is able to resume his or her duties or until the vacant position is filled.

   (4) An acting chief executive officer—

   (a) may exercise all the powers and must carry out all the duties of the chief executive officer; and

   (b) is appointed on terms and conditions, including those relating to remuneration and allowances, as the Board may determine in accordance with the policy contemplated in section 27 (1).

27. **Employment and remuneration policy of Board and appointment of staff.**—(1) (a) The Board must determine an employment and remuneration policy applicable to personnel of the Board.

   (b) The determination must be made with the approval of the Minister acting with the concurrence of the Cabinet member responsible for finance.

   (2) The chief executive officer—

   (a) after consulting the Board, must determine the staff establishment necessary to assist the Board in carrying out its functions; and

   (b) appoint persons in posts on the staff establishment.

   (3) An employee of the Board is employed subject to terms and conditions determined by the Board in accordance with the employment policy contemplated in subsection (1).

28. **National grading system for tourism.**—(1) The Minister may develop a national grading system for tourism with a view to maintaining or enhancing the standards and quality of tourism services, facilities and products.

   (2) The grading system must promote—

   (a) the objects of this Act;

   (b) the national tourism sector strategy; and

   (c) excellence in the provision of tourism services, facilities and products.

   (3) (a) The grading system contemplated in subsection (1) must provide for the establishment of one or more schemes in terms of which tourism services, facilities and products are graded or classified.

   (b) Such a scheme may—

   (i) apply any basis of differentiation in respect of tourism services, facilities and products;

   (ii) classify tourism services, facilities and products into different classes on the ground of, amongst others, their nature, extent, variety, availability and quality;

   (iii) make provision for the acquisition, continuation and termination of membership of the scheme; and

   (iv) make provision for the use and display of the prescribed insignia, which may include a depiction of a star or number of stars indicating the grading awarded in terms of the scheme.

29. **Establishment of Tourism Grading Council.**—The Tourism Grading Council is hereby established.

30. **Main function of Council and oversight and accountability.**—(1) The Council must implement and manage the national grading system for tourism contemplated in section 28.

   (2) The Minister must oversee the functioning of the Council and the Council is in this respect accountable to
31. Composition of Council.—(1) The Council consists of—

(a) at least nine and not more than 13 members appointed by the Minister on the basis of their knowledge, experience or qualifications relating to the functions of the Council; and

(b) one officer of the Department appointed by the Minister to represent the Department.

(2) Section 13 (2) to (7) applies to the Council with the changes required by the context.

32. Term of office of members of Council.—(1) A member of the Council contemplated in section 31 (1) (a) holds office for a period of three years from the date of his or her appointment.

(2) Section 14 (2) to (4) applies to a member of the Council with the changes required by the context.

33. Disqualification from membership of Council.—Section 15 applies to a member of the Council with the changes required by the context.

34. Vacation of office and filling of vacancies.—(1) Section 16 (1) and (2) applies to a member of the Council with the changes required by the context.

(2) The Minister may on good cause shown dissolve the Council by way of notice in the Gazette and appoint a new Council in accordance with section 31.

35. Remuneration of members of Council.—Section 17 applies to a member of the Council with the changes required by the context.

36. Council meetings.—(1) Meetings of the Council must be held on such dates, times and places as the chairperson may determine.

(2) The Council may make rules to regulate its proceedings.

(3) Section 18 (4) to (9) applies to the Council with the changes required by the context.

37. Funds of Council.—Section 21 applies to the Council with the changes required by the context.


39. Committees of Council.—The Council may establish any committee to assist the Council in the performance of its functions and must determine its composition and terms of reference.

40. Appointment and functions of chief quality assurance officer of Council.—(1) The Council, acting with the concurrence of the Minister, must appoint a suitably qualified person as chief quality assurance officer.

(2) The chief quality assurance officer—

(a) is appointed for a period not exceeding five years; and

(b) may be reappointed by the Council with the concurrence of the Minister.

(3) The chief quality assurance officer holds office on terms and conditions, including those relating to remuneration and allowances, as the Council may determine in accordance with the policy contemplated in section 43 (1).

(4) (a) The chief quality assurance officer is responsible for the efficient management of the business and affairs of the Council and must perform any function delegated or assigned by the Council.
(b) The chief quality assurance officer is furthermore responsible for—

(i) supervising the processes involved in the grading of tourism services, facilities and products; ensuring that such grading conforms to the national grading system for tourism contemplated in section 28; and ensuring that standards set in terms of the grading system are maintained;

(ii) the implementation and strategic management of the national grading system;

(iii) strategic management of the resources and funds of the Grading Council; and

(iv) assisting the Grading Council in developing strategic plans.

41. Employment contract and performance agreement of chief quality assurance officer.—(1) The Council and the chief quality assurance officer must conclude a written contract of employment which must incorporate in an appropriate form the provisions of section 57 of the Public Finance Management Act.

(2) Section 25 (2) and (3) applies to the chief quality assurance officer of the Council with the changes required by the context.

42. Resignation and dismissal of chief quality assurance officer and appointment of acting chief quality assurance officer.—Section 26 applies to the chief quality assurance officer and an acting chief quality assurance officer of the Council with the changes required by the context, except that the reference in section 26 (4) (b) to section 27 (1) must be read as a reference to section 43 (1).

43. Employment and remuneration policy of Council and appointment of staff.—(1) (a) The Council must determine an employment and remuneration policy applicable to personnel of the Council.

(b) The determination must be made with the approval of the Minister, acting with the concurrence of the Cabinet member responsible for finance.

(2) The chief quality assurance officer—

(a) after consulting the Council, must determine the staff establishment necessary to assist the Council in carrying out its functions; and

(b) must appoint persons in posts on the staff establishment, including persons to assist the chief quality assurance officer in performing the functions contemplated in section 40 (4) (b) (i).

(3) An employee of the Council is employed subject to the terms and conditions determined by the Council in accordance with the employment policy contemplated in subsection (1).

44. Assignment of oversight and functions of Council.—(1) The Minister may in writing and subject to such conditions as the Minister may determine, assign oversight of the Council, contemplated in section 30 (2), and the performance of any function of the Council contemplated in this Chapter to—

(a) the Department;

(b) the Board; or

(c) any other suitable body which is subject to the Public Finance Management Act.

(2) The Minister may at any time—

(a) amend or revoke an assignment made under subsection (1); and

(b) review, amend or set aside any decision made under such assignment, provided that a decision may not be withdrawn where it confers a right or an entitlement on a person.

(3) An assignment under this section does not prevent the Minister from performing the function himself or herself.

CHAPTER 5
TOURISM PROTECTION

45. Designation of Tourism Complaints Officer.—(1) The Minister may designate a suitably qualified officer of the Department as Tourism Complaints Officer and publish his or her name in the Gazette.

(2) The Tourism Complaints Officer must—
perform the functions referred to in section 46; and
(b) deal with any complaint received in respect of tourism services, facilities or products in the manner provided for in section 47.

46. Accreditation of scheme.—(1) (a) The Tourism Complaints Officer may on his or her own initiative or in response to a proposal from persons conducting business within a particular tourism sector, recommend to the Minister—

(i) the accreditation of a particular scheme or arrangement established by or for a particular tourism sector to resolve tourist complaints; and
(ii) the person responsible for the implementation of the scheme or arrangement.
(b) Before making the recommendation the Tourism Complaints Officer, must—

(i) consult persons conducting business within the particular tourism sector;
(ii) publish particulars of the proposed scheme or arrangement and of the proposed accreditation for public comments;
(iii) consider any comments received; and
(iv) where appropriate, make any adjustments to the proposed scheme or arrangement.
(2) A scheme or arrangement contemplated in subsection (1) must—

(a) be consistent with the objects of this Act;
(b) be consistent with the Consumer Protection Act; and
(c) comply with such requirements as may be prescribed.
(3) The Minister may, by notice in the Gazette—

(a) accredit a scheme or arrangement contemplated in subsection (1); and
(b) amend or withdraw the accreditation on the recommendation of the Tourism Complaints Officer.
(4) The Tourism Complaints Officer—

(a) must monitor the effectiveness of any accredited scheme or arrangement; and
(b) may require the person responsible for the implementation of an accredited scheme or arrangement to provide such information as may be reasonably necessary for the purposes of such monitoring.

47. Duties of Tourism Complaints Officer in respect of tourists` complaints.—Upon receiving a complaint in respect of any tourism services, facilities or products the Tourism Complaints Officer must—

(a) for the purpose of resolving the complaint, refer the complaint to an accredited scheme or arrangement contemplated in section 46;
(b) refer the complaint to the National Consumer Commission, provincial consumer protection authority or consumer court contemplated in the Consumer Protection Act if the Tourism Complaints Officer believes that the issues raised by the complaint can be dealt with expeditiously and fully by the body concerned;
(c) refer the complaint to the South African Police Service, if the complaint alleges that a person has committed an offence;
(d) refer the complaint to the equality court referred to in section 16 of the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act, 2000 (Act No. 4 of 2000), if the complaint alleges unfair discrimination against a tourist;
(e) refer the complaint to another regulatory authority with jurisdiction over the matter; or
(f) deal with the matter in the prescribed manner.

CHAPTER 6
TOURIST GUIDES

48. National Registrar of Tourist Guides.—(1) The Minister must appoint a suitably qualified officer in the Department as the National Registrar of Tourist Guides and publish his or her name in the Gazette.
(2) The National Registrar must—

(a) maintain a central database of all tourist guides registered by Provincial Registrars in terms of section 50;

(b) prepare a code of conduct and ethics for tourist guides in accordance with section 52;

(c) hear and determine appeals and review irregularities under section 56;

(d) monitor trends in the tourist guiding sector by conducting research and analysis;

(e) publish or otherwise disseminate information about tourist guides, associations of tourist guides and any other information to promote and develop the tourist guiding sector nationally; and

(f) liaise with the Board, the Council, Provincial Registrars, tourist guides, associations of tourist guides, education and training authorities, organs of state, the South African Police Service, provincial consumer affairs bodies and any other person or organisation to—

(i) facilitate the growth and development of the tourist guiding sector;

(ii) improve and maintain standards in the tourist guiding sector; and

(iii) cooperate on matters of mutual interest in the tourist guiding sector.

49. Provincial Registrars of Tourist Guides.—(1) The MEC in each province must appoint a suitably qualified officer in the province as the Provincial Registrar of Tourist Guides for that province and publish his or her name in the Provincial Gazette.

(2) A Provincial Registrar must—

(a) for the purposes of section 50, keep a register of tourist guides within the province concerned and must—

(i) record in the register the prescribed particulars with regard to each registered tourist guide;

(ii) delete from the register the particulars of any tourist guide whose registration has been withdrawn;

(iii) make the prescribed endorsement against the name of any tourist guide whose registration has been suspended; and

(iv) inform the National Registrar of anything done in terms of subparagraphs (i), (ii) or (iii);

(b) publish or otherwise disseminate information about registered tourist guides within the province and associations of tourist guides and any other information to promote and develop the tourist guiding sector within the province;

(c) promote and develop the tourist guiding sector within the province in any manner other than as contemplated in paragraph (b);

(d) deal with complaints lodged under section 53;

(e) act in accordance with section 54 when a tourist guide becomes subject to any disqualification referred to in section 50 (3);

(f) exercise disciplinary powers in accordance with section 55; and

(g) if he or she has reason to believe that any person, company or close corporation contravenes section 57, lay a charge with the South African Police Service.

(Editorial Note: Wording as per original Government Gazette. It is suggested that the phrase "company or close corporation" should read as "company or close corporation").

50. Procedure relating to registration of tourist guides.—(1) (a) Any person who wishes to be registered as a tourist guide must apply to a Provincial Registrar in the prescribed manner.

(b) The application must be accompanied by the prescribed registration fee.

(2) No person may be registered as a tourist guide in terms of this Act unless he or she shows proof of the competence contemplated in section 51.

(3) No person may be registered as a tourist guide in terms of this Act if he or she—

(a) has been convicted of an offence in the Republic, other than an offence committed prior to 27 April 1994 associated with political objectives, and sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine or, in the case of fraud or any other offence involving dishonesty, to a fine or imprisonment or both;

(b) subject to subsection (4), has been convicted of an offence in a foreign country and sentenced to
imprisonment without the option of a fine or, in the case of fraud or any other offence involving dishonesty, to a fine or imprisonment or both;

(c) loses his or her South African citizenship or right of permanent residence or work permit in the Republic;

(d) has failed to pass the prescribed quality assurance process that a tourist guide must complete not later than two years after the date of his or her last registration as a tourist guide.

(4) An offence contemplated in subsection (3) (b) must constitute an offence under South African law.

(5) If the Provincial Registrar is satisfied that the applicant complies with the competence for registration as a tourist guide and that the applicant is not subject to any disqualification mentioned in subsection (3), he or she must register the applicant as a tourist guide.

(6) When the Provincial Registrar registers any person as a tourist guide, he or she must issue to that person a registration certificate and a badge, which must be in the prescribed form.

(7) Registration as a tourist guide is valid—

(a) for a period of three years, reckoned from the date of issue of the registration certificate; and

(b) in all the provinces of the Republic.

(8) (a) Any person registered as a tourist guide may before the end of the period for which he or she has been registered, apply to the Provincial Registrar on the prescribed form for the renewal of his or her registration as a tourist guide in respect of the ensuing period of three years.

(b) If the person so applies for the renewal of his or her registration, his or her registration must upon payment of the prescribed fee be renewed, unless he or she has become subject to any disqualification referred to in subsection (3) since the previous registration or renewal of registration.

(9) If a tourist guide has since his or her registration acquired a competence contemplated in section 51 in a prescribed field of specialisation or an additional competence within a prescribed field of specialisation, the Provincial Registrar must, on the application of the tourist guide made in the prescribed manner, accompanied by the prescribed fee, issue to the tourist guide a new registration certificate reflecting that competence and also a new badge, which must be in the prescribed form.

(10) Subject to subsections (11) and (12), the Provincial Registrar may refuse to approve an application for registration as a tourist guide if the applicant’s registration was withdrawn on the grounds of misconduct in terms of section 55 at any time within a period of three years preceding the date of application.

(11) Before the Provincial Registrar refuses to approve an application for registration under subsection (10), he or she must, by notice sent by registered post or any other effective method, inform the applicant of the possible refusal and the reason therefor and call upon the applicant to submit such representations in connection therewith as he or she may wish to make, within a period specified in the notice, which, in any case, may not be fewer than 30 days from the date of the notice.

(12) Before the Provincial Registrar decides on an application under this section, he or she must consider the representations, if any, made by the applicant in accordance with subsection (11).

51. Competence.—The competence referred to in section 50 must be determined by the South African Qualifications Authority in accordance with the national qualifications framework contemplated in the National Qualifications Framework Act, 2008 (Act No. 67 of 2008).

52. Code of conduct and ethics.—(1) The National Registrar must in the prescribed manner, after consultation with the MEC, the Provincial Registrars and stakeholder groupings, prepare and publish a code of conduct and ethics with which every registered tourist guide must comply.

(a) to take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of a tourist whom the tourist guide is accompanying; and

(b) to render services which comply with any norms and standards determined under section 7.

53. Reporting of contraventions and lodging of complaints.—(1) (a) Any person may report a contravention of section 57 (1) or (2) of section 57 (3) with a Provincial Registrar.

(b) The Provincial Registrar must, if the complaint discloses an offence, lay a charge with the South African Police Service.

(c) In the case of a contravention of section 57 (2), the Provincial Registrar must act in accordance with section 54.

(2) (a) Any person may lodge a complaint with a Provincial Registrar regarding the misconduct of a tourist
guide.

(b) The Provincial Registrar must, if the complaint discloses—

(i) a contravention of this Act or any other law constituting an offence, lay a charge with the South African Police Service and act in accordance with section 54;

(ii) misconduct not constituting an offence, including a contravention of the code of conduct and ethics contemplated in section 52, act in accordance with section 54.

(3) A Provincial Registrar concerned must within 14 days report to the National Registrar in writing the result of any case dealt with in terms of this section.

54. Action by Provincial Registrar regarding disqualification of tourist guides.—(1) (a) If a Provincial Registrar has reason to believe that a tourist guide has become subject to any disqualification referred to in section 50 (3), the Provincial Registrar must by notice, sent by registered post or any other effective method, inform the tourist guide of the allegation against him or her and call upon that tourist guide to submit such representations in connection therewith as he or she may wish to make.

(b) The representations must be submitted to the Provincial Registrar within the period specified in the notice, which may not be fewer than 30 days from the date of the notice.

(2) The notice must direct the attention of the tourist guide to the possibility of his or her registration as a tourist guide being withdrawn.

(3) The tourist guide may present his or her case personally before the Provincial Registrar or through an adviser of his or her choice.

(4) If, after considering the allegations against the tourist guide and his or her representations, if any, the Provincial Registrar is satisfied that one or more of the disqualifications referred to in section 50 (3) are applicable, the Provincial Registrar must withdraw the registration as a tourist guide.

(5) (a) The Provincial Registrar may, by the notice referred to in subsection (1), suspend, for a period not exceeding 30 days, the registration of the tourist guide concerned, pending the decision of the Provincial Registrar under subsection (4).

(b) The Provincial Registrar must, before the decision to suspend the registration of the tourist guide is taken, afford the tourist guide an opportunity to make representations to show why the registration should not be suspended.

(6) Subsection (3) applies to any proceedings for the suspension of the registration of a tourist guide under subsection (5).

(7) If the registration of a tourist guide is suspended in terms of subsection (5), the Provincial Registrar must make the prescribed endorsement in the register of tourist guides referred to in section 49 (2), against the name of the tourist guide.

(8) The Provincial Registrar must cause the names of any person whose registration has been withdrawn under this section to be published in the Gazette and in at least one newspaper that circulates in the province concerned.

55. Disciplinary measures.—(1) (a) A Provincial Registrar must institute an investigation or cause an investigation to be instituted if he or she has reason to believe that a tourist guide is guilty of misconduct by—

(i) contravening a provision of this Act or any other law;

(ii) contravening the code of conduct and ethics referred to in section 52; or

(iii) failing to comply with any condition subject to which he or she has been registered.

(b) A Provincial Registrar who institutes an investigation or causes an investigation to be instituted contemplated in subsection (1) must by notice, sent by registered post or any other effective method, inform the tourist guide of the charge against him or her.

(2) (a) (Editorial Note: Wording as per original Government Gazette. It is suggested that the phrase "to be instituted contemplated in subsection (1)" should read as "to be instituted as contemplated in subsection (1)".)
If, after considering the charge against the tourist guide and his or her representations, if any, the Provincial Registrar is satisfied that the tourist guide is guilty of the charge of which he or she is accused, the Provincial Registrar may—

(a) issue a warning to the tourist guide;
(b) impose the prescribed fine, which may not exceed R10 000, on the tourist guide; or
(c) withdraw the registration as a tourist guide for such period, not exceeding five years, as the Provincial Registrar may determine.

(5) (a) The Provincial Registrar may, by notice contemplated in subsection (2) (a), suspend, for a period not exceeding 30 days, the registration of the tourist guide concerned, pending the decision of the Provincial Registrar under subsection (4).

(b) The Provincial Registrar must, before the decision to suspend the registration of the tourist guide is taken, afford the tourist guide an opportunity to make representations to show why the registration should not be suspended.

(6) Subsection (3) applies to any proceedings for the suspension of the registration of a tourist guide under subsection (5).

(7) If the registration of a tourist guide is suspended in terms of subsection (5), the Provincial Registrar must make the prescribed endorsement in the register of tourist guides referred to in section 49 (2), against the name of the tourist guide.

56. Appeals and reviews.—(1) Any person who is aggrieved by a decision of a Provincial Registrar may appeal against the decision in question to the National Registrar in the prescribed manner, within the prescribed period and upon payment of the prescribed fee.

(2) The appellant may argue his or her appeal personally before the National Registrar, or through an adviser of his or her choice.

(3) The National Registrar may confirm, set aside or amend the decision.

(4) The power to determine an appeal in terms of this section is not restricted to the merits of the decision appealed against, but includes the power to review any irregularity alleged regarding the decision.

57. Prohibitions.—(1) No person who is not a registered tourist guide or whose registration as a tourist guide has been suspended or withdrawn, may for reward, whether monetary or otherwise, act as a tourist guide.

(2) No person who has become subject to any disqualification referred to in section 50 (3) may for reward, whether monetary or otherwise, act as a tourist guide.

(3) No person, company or close corporation may for the promotion of any business undertaking conducted by him, her or it, employ or continue to employ as a tourist guide any person who is not a registered tourist guide or whose registration as a tourist guide has been suspended or withdrawn or who has become subject to a disqualification contemplated in subsection (2).

58. Disputes.—Any dispute or disagreement between the National Registrar and a Provincial Registrar concerning the performance of any of the functions contemplated in sections 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55 or 56 must—

(a) be dealt with in accordance with the principles of cooperative government and intergovernmental relations referred to in section 41 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, and the provisions of the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, 2005 (Act No. 13 of 2005); and

(b) whenever necessary, be settled in accordance with Chapter 4 of the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, 2005.

CHAPTER 7
GENERAL

59. Offences and penalties.—(1) A person is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine or imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year if he or she—

(a) professes to be a member of a scheme contemplated in section 28 (3), while he or she is not such a member;
(b) uses in relation to any tourism services, facilities or products offered by him or her any depiction or depictions of a star or stars, or any other prescribed insignia, unless he or she is a member of a scheme contemplated in section 28 (3);

(c) uses in relation to any tourism services, facilities or products offered by him or her an insignia depicting a star or number of stars, or any other prescribed insignia, which is greater than the number which he or she is authorised to depict in terms of such tourism services, facilities or products;

(d) knowingly makes or assists in providing information or any document, required by this Act, that contains an untrue statement of a material fact;

(e) knowingly omits to state a material fact in or on any document referred to in paragraph (d); or

(f) contravenes section 57 (1), (2) or (3).

(2) Any company or close corporation that contravenes section 57 (3) is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding R100 000.00.

60. Delegations and assignments.—(1) The Minister may in writing and subject to such conditions as the Minister may determine, delegate or assign to the Director-General, any other officer of the Department or any organ of state any power or duty conferred on the Minister by this Act.

(2) The Minister may not delegate the power—

(a) to determine norms and standards in terms of this Act;

(b) to appoint a member of the Board;

(c) to appoint a member of the Council; or

(d) to make a regulation.

(3) The Director-General may in writing and subject to such conditions as the Director-General may determine, delegate or assign to any other officer of the Department, any power or duty conferred on the Director-General in terms of this Act or delegated or assigned to the Director-General under subsection (1).

(4) Any delegation or assignment under subsection (1) or (3)—

(a) must be in writing;

(b) does not divest the person who made the delegation or assignment of the power delegated or duty assigned;

(c) does not prevent the person who made the delegation or assignment from exercising the power or performing the duty so delegated or assigned; and

(d) may at any time be withdrawn by the person who delegated the power or assigned the duty.

61. Regulations.—(1) The Minister may, by notice in the Gazette, make regulations regarding—

(a) in relation to the national tourism information and monitoring system contemplated in section 5—

(i) the nature and form of the system;

(ii) the categories, content and form of the data and information to be captured on the system;

(iii) the content, form and manner in which organs of state must provide the Minister with data and information and the intervals at which the information and data must be provided; and

(iv) any other matter necessary for the proper administration and functioning of the system;

(b) the manner and procedure for lodging complaints with the Tourism Complaints Officer;

(c) any matter which may or must be prescribed in terms of this Act; and

(d) generally, any ancillary or incidental administrative or procedural matter that it is necessary or expedient to prescribe for the proper implementation or administration of this Act.

(2) A regulation made under this section may, for any contravention thereof, or failure to comply therewith, prescribe a fine or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 12 months or to both a fine and such imprisonment.

62. Repeal of laws.—The following Acts are hereby repealed:

(a) the Tourism Act, 1993 (Act No. 72 of 1993);
63. **Transitional provisions and savings.**—The transitional provisions and savings contained in Schedule 1 must be read and applied as substantive provisions of this Act.

64. **Short title and commencement.**—(1) This Act is called the Tourism Act, 2014, and takes effect on a date to be determined by the President by proclamation in the Gazette.

(2) Different dates may be so determined in respect of different provisions of this Act.

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<th>Government Gazette</th>
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This Act was published in Government Gazette 37538 dated 7 April, 2014.

**SCHEDULE 1**

*(Clause 63)*

**TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS AND SAVINGS**

1. **Definitions.**—In this Schedule, “repealed Act” means the Tourism Act, 1993 (Act No. 72 of 1993).

2. **Members of South African Tourism Board.**—(1) Every person who is a member of the South African Tourism Board established by section 2 of the repealed Act immediately before this Act takes effect, remains a member of the Board until a date determined by the Minister by notice in the Gazette.

(2) Anything done or any decision or step taken by the South African Tourism Board in terms of the repealed Act which could have been done by the Board in terms of any provision of this Act, is regarded as having been done by the Board in terms of the last-mentioned provision.

3. **Grading and classification schemes established under repealed Act.**—(1) Any grading and classification scheme established by the Minister under section 18 of the repealed Act in respect of accommodation establishments, and any scheme established by the Minister under section 19 of that Act in respect of a sector of the tourism industry other than accommodation establishments, remains of force and effect and must be regarded as a scheme established by virtue of section 28 (3).

(2) Any person who is a member of a grading and classification scheme contemplated in section 18 (1) of the repealed Act or a scheme contemplated in section 19 (1) of that Act, remains such a member and must be regarded as a member of a grading and classification scheme established by virtue of section 28 (3).

(3) Any differentiation applied and any classification made by the Minister under section 18 (2) of the repealed Act in respect of accommodation establishments, or under section 19 (2) in respect of a sector of the tourism industry other than accommodation establishments, remains of force and effect and must be regarded as having been applied or made, as the case may be, by virtue of a grading and classification scheme contemplated in section 28 (3).

(4) Any grading awarded in respect of an accommodation establishment by virtue of a grading and classification scheme contemplated in section 18 (1) of the repealed Act, and any authority granted under section 18 (5) of that Act to use and display insignia indicating the grading awarded in respect of the establishment concerned, remains of force and effect and must be regarded as having been awarded or granted, as the case may be, by virtue of a grading and classification scheme contemplated in section 28 (3).

(5) Until a date determined by the Minister by notice in the Gazette, the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa which existed immediately before the commencement of this Act as a business unit of the Board must be regarded as the Tourism Grading Council established by section 29.

4. **National Registrar of Tourist Guides and Provincial Registrars of Tourist Guides.**—Any person who occupies the post of National Registrar of Tourist Guides or a post of Provincial Registrar of Tourist Guides immediately before this Act takes effect, remains in that post and is regarded as having been appointed under section 48 or section 49, as the case may be.

5. **Tourist guides.**—(1) Any person registered as a tourist guide in terms of section 21A of the repealed Act.
immediately before this Act takes effect, remains registered as a tourist guide for the rest of the period of validity of his or her registration and must be regarded as having been registered in terms of section 50.

(2) Any tourist guide registered in a field of specialisation contemplated in section 21A (7) of the repealed Act immediately before this Act takes effect, remains so registered for the rest of the period of validity of his or her registration and must be regarded as having been registered in terms of section 50 (9).

(3) Any application by a tourist guide for the renewal of his or her registration as a tourist guide, which has been lodged with a Provincial Registrar in terms of section 21A (6) (b) of the repealed Act but not yet finalised when this Act takes effect, must be dealt with, and a registration certificate issued, in terms of this Act.

6. Disciplinary measures, appeals, reviews and criminal proceedings.—Any disciplinary measure instituted in terms of section 21F of the repealed Act, any appeal or review lodged in terms of section 21G of that Act and any criminal proceedings instituted in terms of section 28 of that Act, but not yet finalised when this Act takes effect, must be dealt with and concluded in terms of the repealed Act as if that Act had not been repealed.

7. General.—The following matters authorised by or provided for in the repealed Act, remain of force and effect until amended, repealed or replaced in terms of this Act:

(a) Any record of members of a grading and classification scheme and of establishments graded and classified in terms of such scheme, kept by the South African Tourism Board in terms of section 18 (6) of the repealed Act;

(b) any central database of all tourists maintained by the National Registrar in terms of section 20 (2) (a) of the repealed Act;

(c) any register of tourists, kept by a Provincial Registrar in terms of section 21 (2) (a) of the repealed Act;

(d) any code of conduct and ethics prepared and published by the National Registrar in terms of section 21C of the repealed Act; and

(e) any regulation made by the Minister under the repealed Act.