

# Tourism Minister doesn't care that #JobsSavesLives

By Manny De Freitas MP – DA Shadow Minister of Tourism

I am speaking from Mpumalanga as I support the tourism and related sectors in their public demonstration against the crazy lockdown regulations imposed by this government. Regulations that are causing economic destruction and the mass destruction of jobs.

If a minister in any government in the world were to say that jobs would definitely be lost within the area of their ambit, any other government in the world would fire that minister immediately because jobs actually saves lives!

However, not in South Africa.

In this country a minister that has effectively spat in the face of businesses, gets protected by the President and this government. After all, protecting a political faction over another is more important than saving lives and livelihoods as hundreds of thousands of South Africans from all backgrounds continue to lose their jobs daily. Tourism Minister, Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane doesn't seem to understand that jobs save lives.

It appears that it's completely gone over the Tourism Minister's head, and the government of which she is part, that tourism is one of those low hanging fruits that could relatively easily contribute to building our seriously damaged economy thanks to the ANC. Before the lockdown, South Africa's tourism sector was the largest in Africa and the sixth biggest sector in the South African economy - worth R42,5 billion. This government doesn't care that jobs actually saves lives!

This sector directly supports over 750 000 jobs of which at least half have already been lost! But then the Minister doesn't care about any of this as she confirmed at the Portfolio Committee last week when she stated that the ANC comes first and that she stands behind all cabinet decisions and regulations no matter how ludicrous, job-destroying and destructive they may be! Confirmation that she doesn't care about the fact that jobs saves lives!

The Minister and her government don't give a damn about the economy and the prosperity of this country! History will record that Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane as South Africa's modern-day version of Marie Antoinette.

Shame on you – because jobs saves lives!