

# Tourism wastes R98m – report

**FLAGGED:** IRREGULAR EXPENDITURE 'A CONCERN', AS MINISTER SUSPENDS TWO MANAGERS

» Overall audit performance of 56%, as she looks to improve performance.

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**S**A Tourism and the department of tourism both received qualified or negative audits from the Auditor-General, Tourism Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane said.

Kubayi-Ngubane said she “received with concern” the annual performance report and the audit outcome of the department.

She cited fruitless and wasteful expenditure, related to expanded public works programme (EPWP) projects in the department, as the main reason behind the qualified audit.

“While the department received a qualified audit, it has managed to achieve above 80% for



**UNIMPRESSED.** Tourism Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane has placed two senior managers on precautionary suspension while an investigation is conducted. Picture: Supplied

performance,” she said.

The minister’s comments shed more light on issues at the national tourism agency that saw its CEO, Sisa Ntshona, being put

on “precautionary suspension” in April.

In her statement on Friday, Kubayi-Ngubane revealed that the Auditor-General’s report had

flagged about R98 million in irregular expenditure. She also expressed concern about tourism’s overall audit performance of 56%.

While the minister did not go

into detail about the irregular expenditure, former insiders told *Moneyweb* on condition of anonymity that some of the irregular expenditure relates to the sponsorship of events, such as the Cape Town International Jazz Festival.

Kubayi-Ngubane held a meeting with current SA Tourism staff and the board on Friday. “A number of issues were raised, including how to turn the corner and ensure improved performance in the current financial year and the following years,” she said.

“Ntshona is currently going through a disciplinary process after an investigation by Bowmans.”

*Moneyweb* reported last week that four board members have since resigned, including chair Pam Yako and deputy chair Tanya Abrahamse.

“It must be noted that in cases where clear information of wrongdoing is available, criminal cases and civil claims have been instituted against service providers by the accounting officer,” she said.

“We have placed two senior managers on precautionary suspension while investigating.”