



MEDIA ADVISORY

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATORS' FORUM

ON THE 16th NOVEMBER 2010 IN PARYS

The Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs in collaboration with the National Department of Environmental Affairs are presenting the status of the Vredefort Dome World Heritage Site to environmental communicators from all over the country on Tuesday the 16th November 2010.

Vredefort Dome was declared the World Heritage Site in December 2002. Since then, there has been consultation between different stakeholders that includes landowners, communities living in the dome, North West government, Free State government and affected municipalities.

In 2008, UNESCO undertook a monitoring evaluation mission. The mission made the following recommendations:

- a) Improvement in awareness efforts on the relevant legislation
- b) Improved community involvement
- c) Municipalities to include Vredefort Dome World Heritage Site in their IDP's
- d) A tourism development feasibility study to be undertaken
- e) Updated database of landownership at the dome
- f) Review of the Integrated Management Plan
- g) Improved communication among stakeholders
- h) Waste disposal to receive attention
- i) The state of conservation report to be submitted by 9 February 2009

The purpose of the presentation on Tuesday is to:

- a) Get a historical background leading to World Heritage Site status
- b) Socio-Economic factors in the dome
- c) Geological significance of the VDWHS
- d) Environmental issues and
- e) Current status

Presentations will be followed by a guided tour with a helicopter fly over of the site.

End

**Compiled by: Communication Unit
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