

MEDIA ADVISORY

2011 NATIONAL WORLD TOURISM CELEBRATION DAY

Clarens: World Tourism Day is celebrated annually by the South African Tourism fraternity led by the National Department of Tourism. This year World Tourism Day will be celebrated at Clarens on the 27th September 2011. This year the theme under which these celebrations are taking place is the "**tourism linking cultures**" co-hosted by the Free State province. The national event will be held in the Free State co- hosted by the DETEA.

When tabling his 2011/12 budget vote speech, the MEC: Mxolisi Dukwana said, "Tourism product development should receive added attention to enhance Free State Tourism offerings. To achieve this desired growth and ensure competitiveness of the tourism sector in our province we have lined up some exiting tourism project which we believe could change tourism landscape and help us position the Free State as a tourism destination of choice".

The aim of the Tourism Month is to promote domestic tourism as well as to encourage South Africans to travel in their own country and to showcase how South Africa as a Tourism destination create memorable cultural experience for both domestic and international tourism. As part of the Tourism Month activities, the National Department of Tourism will host a Public Lecture intended to create a dialogue on the importance of culture and heritage in growing and developing tourism.

Minister of National Department of Tourism, Marthinus van Schalkwyk, and Premier of the Free State Province: Ace Magashule and MEC: Mxolisi Dukwana will address guests at this occasion.

Amongst other activities, celebrating and acknowledging excellence in tourism there will be tourism awards for the best tourism product owners in the Free State. The awards will be held at Clarens Square during the gala dinner on the 26/09/2011.

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Compiled by Communication Unit Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs

COMMUNICATION & ICT

24 Bojanala Building Private Bag X 20801 Markgraaf Street Bloemfontein 9300 9300 Tel +27 (0)51 400 9542 Fax +27 (0)51 400 9541 e-mail: <u>tauk@dteeafs.gov.za</u>

www.freestatetourism.gov.za

For more information contact Lebogang Maloale or Kagisho Leteane, Herman Pooe at 051 400 9550/9465 or e-mail <u>maloalel@detea.fs.gov.za</u> or <u>leteanek@detea.fs.gov.za</u>, Pooeh@ detea.fs.gov.za

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