



MEDIA ADVISORY

OPEN PARKS DAY AT WILLEM PRETORIUS NATURE RESERVE

ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2010

September is annually observed and celebrated as a Tourism Month in South Africa. This is an opportunity to showcase tourism potential and plans of different regions of the country.

As part of the celebration for this month, the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs will be hosting the Open Parks Day at Willem Pretorius Nature Reserve. All reserves around the Free State will be open to the public free of charge for them to experience tourism at its best.

Through this activity the FSPG invites all and sundry to join in celebrating the biodiversity that makes the Free State one of popular eco-tourism destinations in South Africa and to also cultivate the culture of travelling and tourism among the people of the Free State.

DETEA is the owner and manager of a 7 Resorts and 14 Reserves/Protected Areas (Tourism Institutions) spread in various districts of the Free State. DETEA owns a total of 28000 different Game (wild animals) species valued at about R82 000.00; including Rhino and Buffalo amongst them all. These Tourism Institutions possesses some of the excellent facilities and resources which remain either ignored or unknown to the Free State, South Africa and International Tourists.

This year's Tourism Month's theme is **“Tourism and Biodiversity, Creating a greener destination for all”**.

Local communities around Willem Pretorius are invited to be part of this carnival atmosphere where they will bring own braai and drinks, enjoy a showcasing of local food cuisines, picnic, game view, free entertainment and obtain Environmental/Conservation Education.

The MEC for DETEA, Mr. Mxolisi Dukwana and other senior managers from other Free State government departments and cooperate world will be in attendance.

END

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