

**SPEAKING NOTES**  
**MEC SAM MASHININI**  
**2016 NATIONAL TOURISM CAREER EXPO OPENING CEREMONY**  
**VENUE: SAND DU PLESSIS THEATRE**  
**DATE: 29 SEPTEMBER 2016**

MEC for Education, Thate Makgoe and all other MEC's present

Mayor of Mangaung, Ms. Olly Mlamleli and all other Mayors present

Chairperson of Free State Tourism Authority, Mr. Glen Nitshivhodza and all other board members present

CEO of Free State Tourism Authority, Mr. Dhilosen Pillay

CEO OF CATHSSETA, Mr. Pumzile Kedama

HOD for DESTEA, Ms. Matilda Gasela

Officials from Provincial Departments

Captains of industry in the tourism sector,

Educators from the various institutions

Learners

Members of the Media

Ladies and gentlemen

Never in their wildest dreams did the architects of apartheid and oppressive laws in this country believe that one day we will all be gathered like these in this facility planning and shaping the future of a black child. Surely Hendrick Verwoed is turning in his grave when he sees, if he can see, that the African National Congress has placed high premium in skilling the children of this country. Hendrick Verwoerd once said, "Blacks should never be shown the greener pastures of education, they should know that their station in life is to be hewers of wood and drawers of water".

Revolutionaries however saw it differently. They say; “Education can make a total loser become the smartest person in the town, it has the power to make a child of a farmworker the owner of a dozen farms and turn a nyaope boy into a drug activist. It can turn a son of a mineworker into a mining mogul and a daughter of a domestic worker to be a medical doctor”. The Freedom Charter declares that “the doors of learning and culture shall be opened for all”.

However, we are mindful of the escalating costs of tertiary education and the annual raising of fees by universities and other institutions of higher learning. This escalating cost has become another source of exclusion for the poor and vulnerable South African child. While we appreciate the autonomy of universities, we must caution universities against excluding students on the basis of price and race. Similarly, we condemn the actions of student who destroy property and schools in the name of free education.

Ladies and Gentlemen; let me apologies for the Deputy Minister of Tourism Ms. Tokozile Xasa and Premier of the Free State hounarable Ace Magashule. They could not be with us today because of the extended Cabinet meeting called by the President of the Republic of South Africa, President Jacob Zuma.

Programme Director; we gathered here today once again to officially open the second episode of the National Tourism Career Expo under the theme: “Tourism alive with opportunities”, a relevant theme that calls upon us to translate our strategies into pragmatic programmes of action from which our community’s particularly young people must benefit.

Tourism is indeed the fasted growing sector which deserves the attention of all role players. Tourism has the potential to boost the economy and help us deal with the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality. We are confident that placing the right emphasis on tourism we will be on the right track in realising radical- socio economic transformation.

Indeed hosting this event, serves as a platform to expose young people to the tourism industry. Ladies and Gentlemen; the reality is that, young people historically did not and still do not see tourism as a career of choice. Those who for one reason or the other came

in touch with the industry, were attracted by short-term need for cash while studying. The intention is to change the perception and make them see and experience tourism as a career.

To the learners and educators who will participate in the NTCE this year – please make the most of your time here. We are sure that the Expo will open your horizons to a whole new world of opportunities that awaits you in choosing a career in tourism sector.

National Development Plan stipulate that South Africa needs an economy that is more inclusive, more dynamic and in which the fruits of growth are shared more equitably. The plan envisages an economy that serves the needs of all South Africans- the rich and poor, black and white, skilled and unskilled, those with capital and those without, urban and rural, women and men. In 2030, the economy should be close to full employment; equip people with the skills they need; ensure that ownership of production is less concentrated and more diverse(where black people and women own a significant share of productive assets),and be able to grow rapidly, providing the resources to pay for investment in human and physical capital.

We are very excited with the increased number of learners and educators participating in 2016 as indicated during the pre-registration, over 9 500 had registered compared to 2015 where we saw 8 928 participants. It is for this reason that we have made a proposal to the Deputy Minister, which I am proud to announce that she is positively considering, to make the Free State the home of the National Tourism Career Expo.

Programme Director; we have introduced more platforms this year such as The Chef Corner and Mixology that we have no doubt NTCE participants will enjoy and learn about them. We have also increased the number of NTCE exhibitors which include among others the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) for learners and stakeholders to engage on matters such as Intellectual Property and company registration.

We also have Youth Business Zone programme in our midst which affords students from our tertiary institutions such as the University of the Free State, Motheo TVET College and Central University of Technology to present their business ideas. The winning

concept will receive both financial and non-financial support to make the idea more bankable and viable business idea or product so that it can be implemented in the province.

Programme Director; indeed tourism is fast becoming a career of choice to many young people even though it is not easy venturing into this business, be that as it may, some young people have these challenges, however these not deter some of the dedicated and focused young people from previously disadvantaged circumstances.

We have no doubt that these young people were encouraged by the Freedom Charter when it says, "People shall share in the country's wealth". This iconic document declares that; "All other industry and trade shall be controlled to assist the well-being of the people; all people shall have equal rights to trade where they choose, to manufacture and to enter all trades, crafts and professions".

Their will and desire to succeed is best captured in the words of Nick Vujicic in his book- Life Without Limits. "Life may be kicking you around right now. You may wonder if your fortunes will improve. I'm telling you that you can't even imagine the good that awaits you if you refuse to give up. Stay focused on your dream. Do whatever it takes to stay in the chase. You have the power to change your circumstances. Go after whatever it is you desire".

Phetogo Molawa, a 30 year old lady who was born in Thaba Nchu near Bloemfontein joined the South African Air Force after leaving school. She is South Africa's first black female helicopter pilot in the South African Air Force and the South African National Defence Force. She is currently a captain in the South African Air Force. She said, "I wanted to show other young women that I can do what men can do, it is excellent fun. I do not think there is anything better."

Joseph Matheatau. a 26 year old young man who was born in Thaba Nchu was not born blind but at an early age in his life unfortunately was partially blind. This didn't bring down the young man but it only inspired him to do and be better in life. Today he is now a barista in Worcester, trained by the truth coffee shop in Cape Town. Joseph dreams of one day opening his very own coffee shop in Bloemfontein.

Tlali Masakala, a 28 year old young man who was born in rural Phuthaditjhaba in QwaQwa in the Free State, is permanently working as a Chef Departie at the University of Johannesburg's School of Tourism and Hospitality after completing the National Youth Chefs Training Programme (NYCTP). He said, "the training was very amazing; they taught us basic skills in cooking, hygiene, and everything else that a chef must know. The training gave us foundation skills of the profession and it was up to us to use the skills to our advantage, I did exactly that and don't regret it to this day".

The CEO of the Free State Travel and Tour agency, one of the winner of the ETEYA awards, Mr.Ntoko Moeletsi said; the recognition of the emerging tourism entrepreneurs is the testimony of the commitment that product divert, offering and excellence are ingredients of a successful tourism growth.

Ladies and Gentlemen, these testimonies shows that determination and hard work does indeed work, no matter what challenges one is faced with in life. You make the best out of any situation.

Strong inter-governmental collaboration with private sectors such as DESTEA, FSTA, the Department of Tourism, CATHSSETA, the provincial Department of Education, Higher Education Institutions, TVET Colleges, The Global Travel & Tourism Partnership South Africa, Learners, and Educators is imperative to grow the tourism industry. These institutions should come to our shore as the key role players to boost the economy and helps us deal with the challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please take note that some of the activities lined up to enhance tourism and economic development in the Free State include Free State Global Trade Bridge, Flower Festival and Macufe. This activities will give us an opportunity to contribute towards building a holiday travel culture amongst South Africans and to promote Universal Accessibility in Tourism through ensuring #TourismForAll

In conclusion, Malcolm X, a civil rights activists once said, "One of the first things I think young people, especially nowadays, should learn is how to see for yourself and listen for yourself and think for yourself. Then you can come to an intelligent decision for yourself. If you form the habit of going by what you hear others say about someone, or going by

what others think about someone, instead of searching that thing out for yourself and seeing for yourself, you will be walking west when you think you're going east, and you will be walking east when you think you're going west". I trust that every one of you here will benefit from this National Tourism Career Expo!!!

**Thanks**