



the detea

the department of economic
development, tourism and
environmental affairs
FREE STATE PROVINCE

Tour de Free State, a Free State of Mind...Feel It!

Media Advisory

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The stage is set for the second Tour de Free State which will start on the 23rd May 2012 from Aldam Estate Resort near Ventersburg in the Free State. 150 international cyclists making up 15 teams from 19 countries will criss cross the length and the breadth of the Free State vying for the championship of the fled lands, valleys, hills, and mountains of the beautiful Free State. The participants in the 2012 Tour de Free State are from following countries, Russia, Ukraine, Eritrea, Britain, Australia, Germany, Finland, Sweden, Belgium, Holland, Mauritius, France, Zimbabwe, Austria, Poland, Norway, Italy, Thailand and South Africa.

The Tour de Free State will touch the following towns Virginia, Theunissen, Brandfort, Jagersfontein, Bloemfontein, Ficksburg, Clarens, Bethlehem, Fouriesburg and Phuthaditjhaba.

A special feature for the Free State 2012 is the inclusion of the event on the annual cycling calendar by Cycling South Africa making it the only Olympic qualifying road cycling race for women in Africa. An opening event complete with a flag ceremony will be held at Aldam Estate Resort on Tuesday the 22nd May 2012. MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Mamiki Qabathe will welcome the teams in true African way at the ceremony to be held at the Aldam Estate Resort. The MEC will also hand over 50 bicycles to five schools in Virginia as part of encouraging cycling among young people in Free State. The cyclists will celebrate Africa Day with the community of Ficksburg, Meqheleng in Setsoto Municipality on Friday the 25TH of May 2012. The closing ceremony will be held on the 27th May 2012 at Clarens, the finalists of the town of the year competition, which will be celebrating its 100 years of its existence this year.

Tour de Free State is also a family event to be enjoyed by all members of the community at towns where it will go through. It is aimed at ensuring that locals are aware of their towns and can explore them enthusiastically at all times. The race will cover 500 scenic plateau of the Free State.

For more information please visit www.tourdefreestate.com

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