

MEDIA RELEASE

Bloemfontein: Stokvel tourism is the new tourism product aimed at boosting domestic tourism in the Free State. This innovative tourism programme is targeted at stokvels, social clubs, churches, savings groups, schools and other groups to encourage savings towards holidays and use state owned resorts and reserves.

Tabling the 2012/13 Budget earlier this year, MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Mosebenzi Zwane said "' Stokvel tourism will target the said groups to visit tourism attractions in the province and incentives will be provided for this purpose". Stokvels in the Free State are encouraged to form themselves into associations to register on the database of the department. For this purpose stokvels can contact **Ms Xoliswa Miso at 051 400 4712 / 072 717 7874 or Mr Mashome Zondo at 051 400 4744/ 082 800 9394.**

The Free State is a big sky country ideal for spiritual rejuvenation - a hidden South African Tourism treasure waiting to be discovered. The Province is home to some of the most brilliant tourism sites stretching from the Vaal in Parys, Deanisville and Oranjeville, to Sandveld west of Hoopstad through to Golden Gate and Clarens, the Jewel of Free State Tourism in Thaba Mofutsanyane down to Tussen die Reviere and Gariep Nature Reserves in Xhariep in the Southern tip of the Free State.

This province is a melting pot of culture and heritage, ranging from historical graves, historical buildings and monuments, nationally acclaimed caves like Lekgalong la Mantsopa, Motouleng, Nkokomohi and Haheng la Wetsi, the rich political history of the African National Congress with the Waaihoek, Wesley Church, Maphikela House, Digarteneng. These also include the women's memoriam in Bloemfontein and the Monument in Winburg.

End!!!

Compiled by: Communication Unit

Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs

For media enquiries please contact: Elsie Ntsane at 051 400 9550 or

ntsane@detea.fs.gov.za