

MEC'S ADDRESS AT THE OCCASION OF NTCE GALA DINNER HELD AT WINDMILL CASINO (BLOEMFONTEIN)

02 OCTOBER 2015

Let me acknowledge both our Programme Directors for this evening,
My colleague, MEC Makgoe,
HOD and DDGs present,
All our esteemed partners and invited guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen

What a liberating feeling for us to get to speak at this **glittering and well-timed** occasion, which unfold amid the fanfare already created by our own annual **macufe** festivities here in Mangaung! We must share with you at the onset Programme Director that all indications point to the fact that as Free State, we have so far, successfully delivered what we promised when we submitted a bid to the National Department of Tourism to host the NTCE 2015 – 2017. We are convinced that the learners and teachers who will be participating tomorrow on the last day, will also find the NTCE fulfilling and educational.

Seeing that 2015 mark the 60th Anniversary since the adoption of the Freedom Charter and the clarion call duly made by the African National Congress early this year for us to expedite implementation of a clause, which said "**THE PEOPLE SHALL SHARE IN THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH,**" We wish to use the hosting of this NTCE to practically re-affirm the proclamation in the charter that: "**All other industries 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.**"

The ANC government is determined to use platforms such as the NTCE to realize what the Freedom Charter envisioned and we want to drive home the message that the youth embody **repositories of values and norms** of any society hence we welcome the biasness shown by the organisers towards involvement of school learners in the NTCE. We all stand to benefit if talents of our youth get properly harnessed at an early stage!

The NTCE 2015 is indeed very exciting, empowering and earnestly seeks to achieve the objectives of the NTCE which include the promotion of tourism as a valuable and vibrant career of choice. All the exhibitions and platforms at the NTCE, ranging from **higher education institutions, the hospitality industry, aviation, educators seminars and green building**, play a pivotal role in ensuring that the NTCE objectives are accomplished.

We would like to call for an end to the existing stereotypes in terms of tourism continuing to be seen as an inferior subject at our high schools and tertiary institutions. At the end of our hosting period in 2017, we should be able to look back with confidence and tell sceptics without ambivalence that **“tourism is a career of choice and indeed alive with opportunities”**

We are glad that the virtual classroom and recruitment corner have assisted our unemployed graduates to place their curriculum vitae (**CVs**) in the market place for employment opportunities and also that the **Youth Business Zone** has received a couple of promising and potential business ideas from our Free State tourism students.

Congratulations once again to all the entrants, finalists and winners who entered various competitions provided by the NTCE. We are looking forward to the Free State entrants competing successfully at the upcoming competitions next year.

We are on the right track, let us not allow anyone with frivolous intent to tell us anything to the contrary!

Thank you.

END.