**MEDIA INVITE**

**TABALAZA ROCKS FEZILE DABI**

The department of Economic Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs in collaboration with Central University of Technology (CUT), will be in Fezile Dabi for Tabalaza Pitching Programme. This is the first of 5th sessions to be held in five (5) different districts of the province before the main event of pitching to investors and funders.

The programme is an incentive scheme established to identify youth business ideas that can be supported by potential investors and relevant stakeholders. Not only will this programme stimulate entrepreneurship within the Free State, but it will also attract investors from all corners of South African as well as international investors.

At districts level SMMEs will pitch to a panel of judges consisting of Free State Development Corporation (FDC), Central University of Technology CUT), National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), First National Bank (FNB) and Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA).

The winners will be chosen from 10 SMMEs who will be pitching and who will represent their respective districts in February 2019 during the main pitching event.

The five district sessions will take place from the 05 September 2018 until the 26th September 2018. Winners will walk away with prizes ranging from R250 000 to R100 000 per districts.

**The details of the event are as follows:**

Venue: **Master Nakedi Sports Centre, Mandela section, Tumahole**

Place: **Parys (Fezile Dabi District)**

Date: **05 September 2018**

Time: **09:30 – 16:00**

**Issued by Issued by the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs**:

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