
MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: Tuesday, 19 November 2024

Attention: Journalists, News Editors and Executive Producers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MASILELA TO ADDRESS THE TWO-DAY ANNUAL SATOVITO INTRA-TRADE CONFERENCE IN NKOMAZI

Mbombela – MEC for Economic Development and Tourism, Ms. Makhosazane Masilela, will address the third annual Township and Village Intra-Trade Conference, under the banner of the South African Township and Village Tourism Organisation (SATOVITO), which will take place over two days in Kamhlushwa in the Nkomazi Local Municipality. SATOVITO is a non-profit organisation established to, amongst others:

- Advocate for township and village tourism stakeholders especially the indigenous groups;
- Develop, diversify and enhance tourism products through niche and community-based tourism experiences such as Rural, Cultural, Agritourism, Heritage Tourism;
- Develop national routes that interlink with Villages, Townships and Small Towns/Dorpiess (VTSD's) that offer niche tourism experiences;
- Grow domestic tourism offerings and increase market access through development, support and marketing of authentic South African tourism experiences based in townships and villages.

SATOVITO has partnered and signed a Memorandum of Agreement with MTPA (Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency) in September 2023, to amongst others, collaborate:

- In availing tourism development opportunities to empower women, youth and people with disabilities, and SMME development;
- In packaging tourism products and providing support and skills development opportunities;
- In providing tourism market access opportunities to increase the ability to sell villages and township product offerings.

The event will include panel discussions, forums and networking. The Conference is aimed at developing, expanding and strengthening the township and rural tourism supplier value chain, while fast-tracking economic participation of the previously disadvantaged people from Villages, Small Towns and Dorpies.

Details of the Event are as follows:

Date: Thursday, 21 November 2022

Venue: Elangeni Lodge, Kwamhlushwa, Nkomazi Local Municipality

Time: 08:00

All Media is invited.

Journalists who are interested to attend can confirm their attendance with **Mr. Thomas Msiza** on 079 500 0137 or email: tmsiza@mpg.gov.za or **Ms. Nomthandazo Mpangane**, MEC's Media Liaison Officer on 073 510 0525 or email: mpanganens@mpg.gov.za.

-ENDS-

Issued by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism

Enquiries: **Dr. Mohau Ramodibe**, Head of Communication on 060 989 4678 | mohauram@mpg.gov.za or **Ms. Nomthandazo Mpangane**, MEC's Media Liaison Officer on 073 510 0525 | mpanganens@mpg.gov.za

****Notes to Editors:***

The Department of Economic Development and Tourism, under the Mpumalanga Provincial Government, is constitutionally mandated to stimulate economic growth and development in the Province, so as to create sustainable and decent employment, economic transformation and to alleviate poverty. The Department has three (3) Public Entities; namely, Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA), Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), and Mpumalanga Economic Regulator (MER), to which it has delegated some of its constitutionally-mandated functions. These functions relate to: trade and investment promotion; funding of SMMEs; tourism growth and development; tourism marketing; regulation of the gambling and liquor industries, including collection of gambling levies and liquor license fees, amongst others.