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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

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**Date: Friday, 29 November 2024**

Attention: Journalists, News Editors and Executive Producers

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MASILELA WELCOMES VISITORS TO MPUMALANGA OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON**

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**Mbombela** – MEC for Economic Development and Tourism, Ms. Makhosazane Masilela, says Mpumalanga is ready to welcome visitors to the Province, during the festive season which has begun in earnest. She also welcomed the revellers who will be attending the 013 SummerBlaze music festival taking place at the Mbombela Stadium tomorrow Saturday, 30 November 2024.

“We welcome all revellers who will be attending the 013 SummerBlaze music festival at the Mbombela Stadium tomorrow. We also encourage them to enjoy responsibly, including when consuming their favourite alcoholic beverages. Accordingly, I urge the organisers of the event to adhere to their license conditions, as it pertains to the sale of alcoholic beverages. And non-adherence to those conditions will lead to our law enforcement teams being activated, to deal with such eventuality.

“This music festival also attracts people from across South Africa, as well as from the neighbouring Kingdom of Eswatini and Mozambique. We appreciate their visit and commit to keep them safe during their stay in our Province. As a Province, we are fully behind such events, as they are tourism and economic propellers, given that quite a number of business establishments, ranging from restaurants, filling stations, accommodation places, amongst others, will benefit from them”, explained Ms. Masilela.

The 013 SummerBlaze started three-years ago and has already established itself as an annual provincial signature event. It attracted about 27 000 revellers last year, and the organisers are targeting around 40 000 this year. The festival is preceded by other build-up events, such as The Ultimate Kasi to Kasi Shutdown, the 013 Panorama Route Tour, the Ultimate 4x4 Mountains and Valleys Experience, and the SummerBlaze Marathon.

“And as we have already entered the festive season, I would also like to inform visitors and tourists alike, that our Province is ready to welcome them. We are ready to welcome them with warm hands; they will experience world class customer service which will make them to come back for more. All our tourist attractions are ready, eager and waiting for them. And once they have experienced our hospitality, I am quite certain they will even extend their stay in our Province; *The Place of the Rising Sun*”, concluded the MEC.

**-ENDS-**

**Issued by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism**

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**\*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.*