

MEDIA STATEMENT

Date: Thursday, 26 September 2024

Attention: Journalists, News Editors and Executive Producers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEC MASILELA WELCOMES THE HOSTING OF THE SPRINGBOKS AGAINST ARGENTINA RUGBY MATCH AT MBOMBELA STADIUM AS A TOURISM BOOSTER

Mbombela – The MEC for Economic Development and Tourism, Ms. Makhosazane Masilela, says the hosting of the Springboks against Argentina rugby match will boost the tourism industry, and will consequently impact positively on the economy of the Province.

The South African rugby national team, the Springboks, will play against the Argentinian national team at Mbombela Stadium on 28 September 2024. Mbombela Stadium has a capacity of 43 500 and tickets are sold out.

“We are excited that all roads will lead to our Province this coming Saturday, as rugby fans will stream in from across South Africa, including from the neighbouring countries of Eswatini and Mozambique, to watch this historic match. To us, this rugby match is not just a sporting event, but a tourism event as it will attract thousands of revelers to visit our attractive, serene and breathtaking Province, Mpumalanga – *The Place of the Rising Sun!*”, explained MEC Masilela.

This rugby match will also boost tourism and subsequently the local economy, as township businesses will receive a share from the economic activities propelled by the hosting of the match, including accommodation bookings. We are also informed that all accommodation establishments in and around Mbombela are fully booked, owing to the much-anticipated match.

“We further urge our visitors to stay even longer, beyond the rugby match, so that they can explore and experience our diverse tourism attractions across the Province. I guarantee that they will not regret such as decision, as they will enjoy their stay in the only Province with God’s window; the home to the big-five, serene Sudwala Caves and the Graskop Gorge, amongst other breathtaking tourist attractions”, added the MEC.

Meanwhile MEC Masilela has urged all business owners, especially in and around Mbombela, to strictly adhere to their license conditions during the hosting of the rugby match.

“As thousands of people descent to our Province to attend the rugby match, we know that they would also like to indulge in various entertainment activities, which surely will include alcohol consumption, amongst others. We, therefore, urge owners of businesses selling alcoholic beverages to strictly adhere to their license conditions, which include adhering to the operating hours as per their licenses. We further urge them not to sell alcoholic beverages to children under the age of 18 years.

“Otherwise, we welcome all the rugby fans who will descent to Mbombela for the rugby match with open and warm arms, and thank them in advance for choosing to visit and explore Mpumalanga – *The Place of the Rising Sun*”, concluded Ms. Masilela.

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Issued by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism

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