



MEDIA STATEMENT

Date: Monday, 02 September 2024

Attention: Journalists, News Editors and Executive Producers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEC MASILELA MOURNS THE DEATH OF A MALE TOURIST WHO TRAGICALLY LOST HIS LIFE AT THE BOURKE'S LUCK POTHLES

Mbombela – MEC for Economic Development and Tourism, Ms. Makhosazane Masilela is saddened by the death of a male tourist who tragically lost his life after falling at the Bourke's Luck Potholes, which is managed by our Public Entity, the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), on Saturday, 31 August 2024.

"The Department and its Public Entity, the MTPA is devastated by the passing on of our tourist who hails from Burgersfort, in the Limpopo Province. We are shattered because the manner in which the tourist lost his life could have been avoided, if all safety measures were observed to the latter. As government, we would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the deceased. We are keeping them in our prayers, and we hope will they find solace and strength in God during these trying times", said MEC Masilela.

The incident happened on Saturday, 31 August 2024, when a male adult slipped and fell from the edge of a rock hanging over the river, which is one of the areas where tourists are not permitted to go into.

"As we usher in Tourism Month, the Department and its Public Entity, the MTPA urge tourists to adhere to safety measures that have been put in place at all our tourist attraction sites to avoid injuries and fatalities. Tourists' safety is our priority number one, hence we have put safety signage in all our tourists attraction sites", concluded Ms. Masilela.

The Department and MTPA will visit the family of the deceased to offer condolences and support.

ENDS

Issued by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism

Enquiries: **Mr. Silence Mhlaba** | Acting Head of Communication | 0664 757 963

Mr. Simphiwe Shungube | MTPA Head of Communication | 072 033 7559
