



MPUMALANGA TOURISM & PARKS AGENCY
BACKGROUND FOR THE CHAIRPERSON FOR TOURISM MONTH

Mpumalanga has the potential to be a premier international and domestic tourism destination. By any standards it is an exceptionally beautiful and interesting Province, aptly named 'the land of the rising sun' – the scenery is different, the climate is different and the ambience is different. Although relatively small geographically, Mpumalanga possesses a wealth of natural resources which include the world renowned Kruger National Park with its diversity of wildlife, the world's 3rd largest canyon – Blyde River Canyon, breathtaking vistas from the Bulembu Mountains, a diversity of fauna and flora and the world's oldest exposed rocks in Barberton, Wetlands and much more. In addition Mpumalanga has a rich cultural heritage.

To the media contingent with us tonight, you will be part of the tourism month celebration. You will be introduced to a number of tourism attractions which in our assessment are less visited but with a high potential for growth. Please take those experiences to your various media platforms. Lets all praise "*Mpumalanga A World Class Tourism And Wildlife Economy*".

To give a line-up of the tourism month, I would like to introduce to you the keynote speaker.

He is the former Cosatu Provincial Secretary; current Member of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature; former Member of the Mpumalanga Executive Council responsible for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs; and currently the Member of the Mpumalanga Executive Council responsible for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. He is a capable and dedicated cadre of our liberation movement.

Ladies and gentlemen let's give a round of applause for the Honourable MEC, Norman Mokoena.