



**economic development
& tourism**

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Building Number 4, No. 7 Government Boulevard | Riverside Park Extension 2, Mbombela, 1201
Private Bag X 11215, Mbombela, 1200 | Tel. 013 766 4271/4132/4148

MEDIA STATEMENT

STATEMENT PRESENTED BY THE MEC FOR FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM, MR SIKHUMBUZO ERIC KHOLWANE, MPL, ON THE OCCASION OF ANNOUNCING THE NEW BOARD OF THE MPUMALANGA TOURISM AND PARKS AGENCY AT THE MTPA OFFICES, MATSAFENI, MBOMBELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Thursday, 17 March 2016

Members of the media;

Good afternoon and thank you very much for honouring this invitation.

As always, we continue to appreciate this thriving partnership given that you are the source for our people, and our information distribution channel. We appreciate your contribution in this regard.

I am accompanied by the **Acting Head of Department, Mr Jacob Simon Mgidi**, who is the Accounting Officer for Vote 6 – Department of Economic Development and Tourism, the Shareholder of the MTPA.

As a listed Public Entity, the MTPA is also governed by its founding Act and Regulations which prescribe that it must be led by a **non-executive Board** which will assume the **role of an Accounting Authority**.

Accordingly, the **Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency Act, 2005 (Act No.5 of 2005)** stipulates that the Board must be made up of **not fewer than nine (9) and not more than eleven (11) non-executive** Members.

I am emphasising the part on '**non-executive**' to indicate that the Board is **not full-time**, that is, it cannot run the day-to-day activities of the Entity.

Ladies and gentlemen;

As you might be aware, the MTPA has been functioning with an Interim Board which was chaired by **Mr Sipho William Lubisi until 29 February 2016**.

During its term, the Interim Board has done a sterling job of stabilising the Entity, and we also have utmost faith that the incoming Board will pick up where they left off, and perform even better.

I have personally written to Mr Lubisi and all other members of the Interim Board to express our appreciation, for holding the fort and strategically leading the Entity to where it is today.

In this regard, the **eleven (11) member non-executive Board** are appointed in terms of **section 7(1) read with section 11** of the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency Act, 2005 (Act No. 5 of 2005).

The term of office of the new Board shall be for a **period of four (4) years**, and commenced from **01 March 2016 until 29 February 2020**.

Ladies and gentlemen;

I now have the honour to present to you, the Board Members who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the entity, and they are:

1. **Mr Thulani Nzima – Chairperson**
2. **Ms Nomaswazi Rachel Shabangu-Mndawe – Deputy Chairperson (In absentia)**
3. **Mr Sipho Gift Mthombeni**
4. **Ms Sijabulile Makhathini**
5. **Mr Tlou Keetse**
6. **Ms Sheila Sekhitla**
7. **Mr Daniel Thabo Magome**
8. **Ms Tholakele Betty Nkambule**
9. **Mr Christopher Lancaster Gololo**
10. **Ms Mampyane Stella Nkgadima**
11. **Ms Nonyaniso Brenda Mzuzu**

In addition, the Head of Department becomes an **ex-officio Member of the Board, though without voting powers**, and may designate an official from the Department to represent him in Board meetings.

The **Chairperson of the Board**, Mr Nzima, is the former CEO of South African Tourism, and thus comes in with a vast experience in the sector. Amongst others, he holds a B.Comm degree.

The **Deputy Chairperson**, Ms Shabangu-Mndawe, served as the Deputy Chairperson of the Black Lawyers Association from 2011 to 2014 and brings to the Board a wealth of experience from the legal field. Amongst others, she holds an LLB degree.

The other nine (9) Board Members have various experience and qualifications in the fields of tourism, conservation, marketing, accounting and administration and management, amongst others.

For example, one Board Member by the name of **Ms Makhathini is a certified Chartered Accountant**, and we believe the Entity will benefit immensely from her expertise.

If you have noticed, the new Board consists of **six (6) females and five (5) males**. We have thus met gender parity – in fact, we have even **more females** in the Board.

In addition, there is **50-50 representation in the leadership** of the Board. The chairperson of the Board is a **male** and is deputised by a **female**.

Furthermore, we have also started with the recruitment process to appoint the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** for the Entity. The post, which is currently occupied by **Mr Abe Sibiya**, in an acting capacity, has already been advertised.

It is our intention to fill the post as soon as possible, in order to complete stabilising the Entity.

To this end, we have allocated an amount of **345-Million, 808-Thousand Rands** to the MTPA in the **2016/2017** financial-year, in order for it to continue to fill its tourism promotion and conservation management mandates.

We acknowledge that the allocation may not be enough, but as all of us around the country, we must do with what we have.

As the Department, we will continue to support the Entity in all respects, in order for it to fulfil its mandates.

We strongly believe that the new Board, under the capable leadership of Mr Nzima, will steer the MTPA in that direction.

Together We Move tourism in Mpumalanga forward

I thank you

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***Issued by the Communication Directorate
Department of Economic Development and Tourism
For media enquiries, please contact: Mohau Ramodibe on 082 771 9950***