

**MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE BY THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM, MRS YN 'PINKY' PHOSA TO CORRECT MISCOMMUNICATION OR MISUNDERSTANDING DURING THE OCCASION OF 'QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY' TO THE MPUMALANGA LEGISLATURE ON 07 MARCH 2013 AT THE DR PIXLEY HA-ISAKA SEME.**

Honourable Speaker, I move table a Motion without Notice, to put the record straight regarding my responses to 'Questions of Oral Reply' during the Provincial Legislature's sitting at the Dr Pixley ka-Isaka Seme municipality on 07 March 2013. During that occasion, I responded to the question "What is the department doing to ensure that a tourism market in towns of Pixley Ka-Isaka Seme like Wakkerstroom is developing," by indicating that and I quote:

*"We must admit that enough has not been done to exploit the tourism potential of this region. I have accordingly instructed my Department to accelerate the implementation of the Provincial Tourism Growth Strategy, which will benefit all municipalities in the Province. The Pillars of this strategy include but are not limited to the following:*

- *Tourism Product Development;*
- *Marketing of tourism attractions, some of which are located in this Municipality such as the beautiful natural scenery and uniqueness of our flora and fauna. This Municipality as an example is inhabited by many different and unique species of birds which could not be found anywhere else in the world, and this is a niche tourism market which can easily translate into a world heritage site.*

It was however unfortunate that my response was misinterpreted to mean that Wakkerstroom would be declared the World Heritage Site, because of unique birds species which attract a lot of people to the area. I would really like to set the record straight and correct this misunderstanding. If the Honourable Member Benadie had listened carefully, I said that "**this is a niche tourism market which can easily translate into a world heritage site.**" I never said the area will be declared a World Heritage site. I merely indicated that it has a potential, and having a potential does not implies the area has been entered to be considered as such.

I think it was significant that I must correct this misinterpretation, given that we cannot be viewed as having misled the House and our people. This miscommunication or unclear utterance is regrettable and was never intentional. I hope Honourable Member Benadie will understand this.

Working together, we can do more to grow our tourism sector in order to create jobs, fight unemployment, poverty and inequality.

I so move Honourable Speaker.