



tourism

Department:
Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Message of support by the Department of Small Business Development (DSBD).

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The Department of Small Business Development (DSBD) is encouraged by the focus that our sister Department of Tourism (NDT) is making in the development of SMEs in the sector. This was demonstrated by the NDT's signing of memorandum of Understanding in December 2015 with DSBD. The purpose of the MoU is to facilitate collaboration on the roll-out of enterprise development programmes. In 2016 several engagements between senior officials of NDT and DSBD and its implementing agencies took place to define areas of collaboration. Amongst the areas identified for collaboration in SME development are;

- Roll-out to tourism incubators across the country;
- Utilisation of SEDA human and physical infrastructure for tourism business development support;
- Utilisation of SEFA infrastructure and expertise for development of funding instruments for tourism SMEs;
- Participation in the DSBD led Interdepartmental Committee on SME Development.

Just two weeks ago a meeting to review the implementation of the MoU took place between implementing officials and a revised plan for the current financial year is being finalised.

The DSBD is also aware of the Department of Tourism's national roll out of SME Business Development and market access programmes which have for instance seen 90 SMEs in tourism are participating at this year's Indaba through the hidden Gems pavilion. Increasing access to markets for SMEs is critical as it will strengthen volumes received by operators and improve into their cash flows, enhancement the sustainability of enterprises and their ability to maintain existing jobs and creation of new ones.