



tourism

Department:
Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA INVITATION

DEPUTY MINISTER OF TOURISM, MS. MAKHOTSO SOTYU, TO HOST A YOUTH IN TOURISM ENGAGEMENT IN MANGAUNG - FREE STATE PROVINCE

15 JUNE 2026

#YouthMonth2026 – Deputy Minister of Tourism, Ms. Makhotso Soty, will host a Youth in Tourism Engagement in the Free State Province to commemorate Youth Month and highlight the valuable contribution that young people can play in the tourism sector.

Themed **“Reset@50 – A future in tourism calls,”** the tourism engagement responds to Government’s Youth Month call to transform the legacy of the 1976 Youth Uprisings into meaningful opportunities for today’s youth.

The Youth in Tourism engagement will feature a myriad of activities that include a culinary showcase of South African cuisine, presentations by various sector stakeholders, mentorship, and networking opportunities among chefs and industry professionals. Information on the department’s programmes and initiatives that support youth upskilling and entrepreneurship will be shared, inspiring and empowering young people to explore the endless opportunities in the tourism sector.

The Deputy Minister’s event takes place aptly as South Africa commemorates Youth Month in June 2026, marking the 50th Anniversary of the 1976 Youth Uprising. The commemoration urges the youth to actively participate in shaping South Africa’s democratic, economic, social, and cultural future.

The Youth Month event is hosted in collaboration with the executives from Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA), the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, the Free State Tourism, Liquor and Gambling Board, and tourism stakeholders.

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AS FOLLOWS:

Date: Thursday, 18 June 2026

Time: 09h00 – 15h00

Venue: Mahube Tumelo Hall, 24 Ben Jones Street, Hamilton - Bloemfontein.

RSVP: Members of the Media can confirm their attendance by **17 June 2026 at 12h00** to **Bheka Kweyama** Cell: 071 868 4141 E-mail: bkweyama@tourism.gov.za