



tourism

Department:
Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

FREE STATE YOUTH GRADUATE FROM HOSPITALITY TRAINING PROGRAMME

29 March 2019

FREE STATE PROVINCE - Deputy Minister of Tourism Elizabeth Thabethe today officiated the graduation ceremony of learners from the Free State Province who successfully completed the Department's Hospitality Youth Training Programme.

Held at the iconic Naval Planetarium in Bloemfontein, the ceremony marked a jovial moment for the ninety- six (96) graduates from Clarens, Xhariep and Thaba Nchu who received NQF level 2 and 4 qualifications in Accommodation, Food and Beverage Services.

Speaking on behalf the her fellow graduates, Zenith van Wyk said expressed her joy in being afforded the opportunity to participate in the Hospitality Training programme as it broadened her perspective on the multiple career paths in the tourism industry.

"We have learnt from the Hospitality Training programme about the importance of service excellence and professionalism in the tourism industry. The practical training opened our eyes to the vast range of career opportunities that we can pursue - beyond our current qualification. With a little hard work and dedication, we will make a difference in the tourism industry in our province," said Van Wyk.

The Department approved a budget of R4 million to capacitate 100 learners from the Free State under its Hospitality Youth Training Programme. Learners who successfully completed the 12 month course received CATHSSETTA accredited NQF level 2 certificates in Accommodation services, and NQF Level 4 certificates in Food and Beverage services. More than 500 learners have graduated from the programme in the 2018/19 financial year.

In the remarks, Deputy Minister Elizabeth Thabethe applauded the efforts of the graduates in leveraging on the learning opportunities that arose from the gains of democracy, and she reminded them to play an active part in building a better country.

"Today, we acknowledge your accomplishment in seeking opportunities to empower yourselves to enter the workplace. Your efforts are not only a reflection of your will to succeed, it is an affirmation of your active participation in building a better country."

"This year, we will be celebrating 25 years of Democracy. I urge you to continue to look for opportunities to empower yourselves beyond this point, so that your families and communities can share in the greater benefits gained from freedom," concluded Deputy Minister Thabethe.

For more information on the skills development programmes implemented by the Department of Tourism for the youth, visit www.tourism.gov.za

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ENQUIRIES:

Mr Blessing Manale

Chief Director: Communications

Department of Tourism

Tel: +27 (0)12 444 6607

Cell: +27 (0)66 487 8867

Email: bmanale@tourism.gov.za