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## **Minister Hanekom to launch the Metsi Matsho Lodge and engage with the Qwaqwa Community**

**18 February 2019**

FREE STATE: Tourism Minister Derek Hanekom, and along with Rural Development and Land Reform Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, will officially launch and handover the Metsi Matsho Lodge in Qwaqwa to the Dinkweng Traditional Council.

The department built the Metsi Matsho Lodge as part of its National Tourism Sector Strategy to increase tourism products at rural nodes, and to enhance visitor experience.

The lodge, which can provide accommodation for more than 60 people, is one of a number of infrastructure projects under the department's Working for Tourism initiative - funded by the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). It is envisaged that the facility will create employment opportunities, and stimulate the local tourism economy.

The launch will culminate with an Imbizo affording the Ministers, along with the executives of the Free State Province, Thabo Mofutsenyane District Municipality and the Maloti-A-Phofung Local Municipality an opportunity to engage with the community on tourism development in the area.

### **MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA ARE INVITED:**

**DATE** : Friday, 22 February 2019

**VENUE** : Metsi Matsho Lodge – Qwaqwa, Thaba Bosiu (Free State)

**TIME** : 09:00 for 09:30

Kindly confirm your attendance by no later than **19 February 2019**

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