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Minister Hanekom engages with Port St Johns community on the Six Day Hiking Trail development

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The Minister of Tourism, Derek Hanekom with the Eastern Cape MEC for Economic Development, Environment Affairs and Tourism today engaged with the communities around Mngazana Village, Eastern Cape to discuss the tourism benefits of the 64km Six Day Hiking Trail.

“The hiking trail from Port St Johns to Coffee Bay can create much opportunity. Our challenge is to make this a blow-away hiking trail. We want people from the across the world to hike this trail as it is unique, linking physically beauty with a cultural experience,” said Minister Hanekom.

This approximately R20 million project refurbished the Six Day Hiking Trail from Port St Johns to Coffee Bay in the Eastern Cape. Construction commenced on January 2016 with Phase 1 and included the upgrading of the hiking trail through erosion control and enhancement of the trail; construction of ablution blocks; recreational facilities including benches and park bins; clearing of alien vegetation; building of nine hiking huts and provision of furniture.

“The big magnet is the physical beauty of this area and the environment who will attract many tourists. We need to look after that environment.”

“We need to make certain as tourism grows that people benefit and are always there to welcome the tourists. It is about the environment and people. Without people and the participation of the people, the environment will not be protected. If the environment is well protected, there will be more tourists, more jobs and more opportunities.”

“Big tourist attraction creates jobs and put food on the table for many people. Tourism is not only for some big hotels, but it is about the people and the benefits must go to the people,” concluded the Minister.

Phase 1 of this project employed 104 people from 2016 to 2017 from Mpande, Hluleka, Mgazana and Port St Johns. The Minister is in the Eastern Cape to host World Tourism Day on 27 September 2018 at Luchaba Nature Resort in Mthatha.

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