



Private Bag X424, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa. Tel. (+27 12) 444 6780, Fax (+27 12) 444 7027
Private Bag X9154, Cape Town, 8000, South Africa. Tel. (+27 21) 469 5800, Fax: (+27 21) 465 3216

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12 JUNE 2025

SOUTH AFRICA TO UNVEIL WORLD-CLASS DINOSAUR INTERPRETATION CENTRE AT GOLDEN GATE HIGHLANDS NATIONAL PARK

South Africa unveils one of its most exciting cultural and scientific attractions yet - the Kgodumodumo Dinosaur Interpretation Centre. This state-of-the-art visitor experience is set in the breathtaking landscapes of the Golden Gate Highlands National Park.

This R120 million investment, co-funded by the European Union through the South African National Treasury, represents a bold and joyful step forward in the country's mission to create inclusive, educational, and globally compelling tourism experiences. The launch, scheduled for the 22nd of June, is a milestone moment for the Department of Tourism, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE), South African National Parks (SANParks), and the Free State provincial government.

Under the theme **“A Nation That Works for All – Unearthing Our Past, Building Our Future,”** the new centre offers an immersive celebration of Africa's ancient story, spotlighting the oldest known dinosaur embryos ever discovered. With interactive exhibitions blending palaeontology, archaeology, geology, and cultural heritage, the centre promises to awaken curiosity and delight in every visitor - young and old.

“This centre is a symbol of what we mean when we say, Come Find Your Joy in South Africa,” said Minister of Tourism Patricia de Lille. “Whether your joy is sparked by science, nature, culture, or connection, Kgodumodumo is an experience that brings it all together in a way that is locally rooted and globally inspiring.”

The Kgodumodumo Dinosaur Interpretation Centre is not just about the past; it is an investment in the future. As part of its broader impact, the launch will include the graduation of newly trained local tourist guides, a testament to the project's role in empowering youth, women, and rural communities through skills development, job creation, and tourism-led economic growth.

Highlights of the Launch Event:

- Ministerial walkabout and exclusive media tour
- Keynotes by government and conservation leaders
- Certification ceremony for local tourist guides

- Cultural performances by traditional artists
- Live streaming for international audiences
- Interviews with dignitaries and exploration of fossil sites

Located within a UNESCO-quality setting of natural beauty, the centre will anchor longer stays in the region, support small business development, and deepen the Free State's tourism profile, especially among adventure seekers, family travellers, and heritage tourists.

The Kgodumodumo Centre forms a strategic pillar in the implementation of Vision 2040, which champions inclusive, infrastructure-led growth, environmental conservation, and intergenerational equity. It reflects South Africa's determination to build a resilient tourism economy that is shared by all.

Come find your joy in South Africa, where ancient wonders meet modern marvels at the Kgodumodumo Dinosaur Interpretation Centre.

ENDS

Issued by: Ministry of Tourism

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Sindi Zwane

Department of Tourism

Email: szwane@tourism.gov.za

Tel: +27 12 444 6612

OR

Thandiwe Mathibela

South African Tourism

Email: Thandiwe@southafrica.net

Social Media Hashtags:

[#SouthAfricaAwaits](#) [#ComeFindYourJoy](#) [#WeDoTourism](#) [#SANParks](#)