



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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

Seasoned administrator to head Department of Tourism

13 August 2015

Minister of Tourism, Derek Hanekom, has announced the appointment of highly respected government administrator Victor Tharage to the post of Director-General of the Department of Tourism. Tharage, who holds the post of Deputy Director-General: Policy and Knowledge Services, will assume his duties from 1 September 2015.

"Tourism has been acknowledged as a top economic contributor in South Africa, and we are well positioned to continue transforming the sector for the benefit of all. I am confident that Victor is the most suitable candidate to steer us along this new growth path as head of the department," Minister Hanekom said.

Tharage brings a wealth of expertise to the role, with almost two decades of public service experience under his belt. This includes 11 years at senior management level, of which more than half has been in executive leadership positions. Tharage has been at the helm of the department in an acting capacity since the beginning of this year.

"He demonstrated his leadership ability for the past six months, working with staff and managing relations with key stakeholders," said Minister Hanekom.

Tharage's solid government background and his experience in the tourism sector since 2001 underpins his strategic understanding of its priorities and challenges. His sound and professional relationships with stakeholders will stand him in good stead as the new Director-General of Tourism.

Enquiries:

Mr Praveen Naidoo

Media Liaison Officer to the Minister
National Department of Tourism
Telephone: +27 (0) 12 444 6607
Cell: +27 (0) 81 475 1056
Email: pnaidoo@tourism.gov.za