



**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

Tourism minister honoured

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The Federal Republic of Germany has awarded the country's highest honour to South Africa's Minister of Tourism, Derek Hanekom.

The Order of Merit was conferred on Minister Hanekom by Ambassador Walter Lindner, on behalf of Federal President Joachim Gauck, at a ceremony in Pretoria last night.

The Order of Merit is the highest tribute that Germany pays to individuals for their political, economic, social and intellectual achievements.

Ambassador Lindner said the Order of Merit was made in recognition of Minister Hanekom's contribution to cooperation between Germany and South Africa during his tenure as Minister of Science and Technology.

"I am happy that your contribution to fruitful relations between South Africa and Germany is continuing on the same high level in your position as Minister of Tourism," said Ambassador Lindner to Minister Hanekom.

In response, Minister Hanekom said he was extremely humbled and honoured to receive the award.

"This is a tribute to all the people who are working hard to make a difference to our country. This is a big moment for all of us, and I am proud to share the honour with the people of South Africa, in recognition of the outstanding work that is being done in our country."

Enquiries:

Mr Praveen Naidoo

Media Liaison Officer to the Minister

National Department of Tourism

Telephone: +27 (0) 12 444 6607

Cell: +27 (0) 71 677 5004

Email: pnaidoo@tourism.gov.za

Facebook: [DepartmentOfTourism](https://www.facebook.com/DepartmentOfTourism)

Twitter: [@Tourism_gov_za](https://twitter.com/Tourism_gov_za)