



tourism

Department:
Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

More Free State Chefs added to the Tourism Sector

01 December 2022

The Department of Tourism today hosted the graduation of the Professional Cookery Programme in Bloemfontein and welcomes the new cohort of Free State graduates to populate the talent pool in the tourism value chain. With the festive season fast approaching, the sector has been bolstered by this addition of 110 chef graduates.

This was a one-year programme targeting unemployed youth in the Free State which aims to upskill and ensure employability within the hospitality industry. This programme commenced in 2021 and entails 30% theory and 70% workplace experiential training with graduates receiving a National Certificate in Professional Cookery accredited by Culture, Art, Tourism, Hospitality and Sports sector education and Training Authority (Cathsseta). Collaborative partnerships with industry stakeholders offering in-house practical training for learners, has contributed to the success of the initiative.

The Free State chefs graduates were excited to share their experiences. Claude Jantjies, 33, from Thaba Nchu said: "Cooking must be your passion to be successful! It was a pleasure and honour to be part of this Professional Cookery Programme."

Moloboheng Mabitle, 28, also from Thaba Nchu added: "A recipe has no soul. You as the cook must bring soul to the recipe. Thank you so much to the Department of Tourism for this opportunity."

Lehlohonolo Mosia, 27, from QwaQwa concluded: "The culinary arts are an amazing field for individuals who want to showcase their creativity through art."

Offering excellent service and creating memorable experiences meet and exceed the expectations of visitors and ensures their return. The Department continues to advance the tourism and hospitality experience and reaffirms its commitment to training and development which will yield many happy returns and that will contribute to the tourism recovery plan. This intervention plays a major role in the tourism value chain.

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