



**DEPUTY MINISTER
TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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Speech by Deputy Minister Fish Mahlalela at the NTCE Media Launch

10 March 2022

The Executive Mayor of the Sedibeng District Municipality, Cllr. Lerato Maloka.

The Mayor of the Midvaal Local Municipality, Cllr. Peter Teixeira.

The CEO of the Gauteng Tourism Authority, Mr. Sthembiso Dlamini.

The CEO of CATHSSETA, Mr. Marks Thibela.

DDG Mmaditlonki Setwaba.

Stakeholders and partners.

Officials of all the three spheres of government

Our prospective students.

A career decision is a significant turning point in the life of a young adult. You are mapping the path that you will follow with passion for the rest of your life, so choose wisely.

The National Tourism Careers Expo (NTCE), in its 12th year, will be hosted for the first time in Gauteng in 2022. The NTCE is a collaboration of the three partners, the Department of Tourism, the Culture Arts, Tourism, Hospitality & Sport Education Training Authority (CATHSSETA) and the Gauteng Department of Economic Development, represented by the Gauteng Tourism Authority (GTA) as the host province and the implementing agency.

The NTCE is designed to bridge the information gap between the industry, government, learners and educators. The expo aims to drive the goal of the National Tourism Sector Strategy to create an additional 300 000 tourism jobs opportunities by 2026.

The purpose of the NTCE is to provide a platform for the sector to create awareness on the available careers and professional opportunities in the tourism industry and give the learners/students an opportunity to interact with their potential employers.

The objectives seek to:

- Highlight the skills development challenges and potential solutions within the sector
- Showcase partner contribution towards skills development, education and training in tourism
- Showcase inclusive growth initiatives in the tourism sector
- Highlight initiatives and programmes that are set to drive tourism recovery

The 2022 expo takes place at a backdrop of the COVID19 pandemic that reduced productivity in the tourism sector for close to two years.

Themed “Rebuilding a resilient and inclusive Tourism sector for the future,” the NTCE aims to showcase the plethora of opportunities that exist in tourism as the sector works towards economic recovery.

This gives expression to our vision is to be a leading platform for communicating career path, job and entrepreneurial prospects and further education opportunities in the tourism sector. Our

mission is to inspire the present and prospective tourism learners and unemployed youth to rise to new heights in search for tourism careers and professional opportunities.

The pandemic wreaked unprecedented havoc on this vibrant sector. Having been at the coalface of this epidemiological storm, the tourism sector was all but decimated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This sector was the first to close, when travel ground to a halt globally, and the last to partially re-open. It was a catastrophe of note, decimating both lives and livelihoods.

The tourism sector is one of the critical intervention areas that have been identified in the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan as tourism is a key driver of the economic recovery in the country. The Department of Tourism together with its stakeholders, have collaborated to develop the robust Tourism Sector Recovery Plan. This Plan is anchored on three interlinked pillars or strategic themes: protecting and rejuvenating supply, reigniting demand and strengthening enabling capability for long term sustainability.

Tourism is the world's fastest growing employment sector that continues to adapt to new trends. South Africa is therefore rebuilding the sector to ensure its sustainability for future generations. To drive growth and recovery of the tourism sector, we need to boost the talent pool. A robust recovery plan needs to be firmly anchored in bold strategy that will position the economy on an upward trajectory and growth path. A demand-led skills supply in the sector is therefore pivotal. While tourism is a significant economic lever, it is so much more than generating revenue. Tourism is a people-centric sector with people at the heart of its brand.

Career opportunities in tourism are limitless. The hospitality and tourism industry present a unique career path for professionals who specialise in creating the finest guest experiences. Indeed, tourism is a conduit for people to learn new things and discover the world through its diverse cultures.

Careers found in the tourism value chain range from food and beverage, cruise ships, transport, adventure tourism, travel trade, events and conferences, tour operators, tourism entrepreneur, travel bloggers etc.

The NTCE is not only an exhibition that showcases tourism products but it gives impetus to Tourism Sector Human Resources Development strategy and is content-driven and outcomes-based.

The success of every nation begins with a recognition and realisation that young people are active shapers of development processes in society.

Young people are a prominent and significant demographic that must be involved in the economic emancipation of our nation, this they can only do through arming themselves with education. As government, we have harnessed courage to listen to young people and give them opportunities to better their lives, hence the National Tourism Careers Expo, we believe that young people should be the driving force in our developmental state agenda.

Find your niche in our value chain. Discover your purpose, ignite your passion and position yourself for endless possibilities.