



MAYOR'S WELCOMING REMARKS AT THE MATAT FEES EVENT

WFO National Enduro,

Local Organisers of Matat Fees,

Route 56 Local Tourism Organisation,

Crafters,

Matatiele stakeholders present here,

Ladies and gentlemen

I greet you all in the name of local government.

This Event is one of the events that give us an opportunity to reflect on whether a country with so much abundance of talent and natural resources is in fact able to take care of its own children and grow a new nation - a nation that we will be proud of one day.

Tourism is one of the important strategic sectors in South Africa. It has show a huge high growth of about 20% over the past years. It continues to grow, and has become the second largest economic sector next to manufacturing and mining. It employs about three percent (3 %) of the work force in South Africa. It is responsible for the creation of about 1 in 8 work opportunities.

In His State of the Nation Address 2012, His Excellency President Jacob Zuma mentioned that South Africa has the triple challenges of Unemployment, Poverty and Inequality. Tourism is one of the economic sectors that can address these three challenges.

Matatiele Local Municipality is responsible for Local Tourism in terms of the Powers and Functions as outlined in the Constitution of the Republic of South



Africa, Act No 108 of 1996. Further, Tourism is earmarked as one of the Pillars of the Matatiele Development in general, as earmarked in the Municipal vision:-

“Where Nature, agriculture and tourism are investments of choice”

In pursuance of that vision, the following are the planned Tourism Programmes for this current financial year:

• **Destination Marketing:**

- Matatiele Music Festival
- “Matat” Fees in Partnership with WFO National Enduro
- Mehloping Hiking Trail and Freedom Challenge Heritage Event
- Ced/Matat Read Meat Triple Challenge

In conclusion,

The importance of this event towards the marketing of Matatiele cannot be overemphasized. As the Municipality we therefore commit ourselves to honoring and supporting this in our Annual Event calendar of events.