

# SAFETY & SECURITY

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## NEW DRIVER OF TOURISM ECONOMIES

# CONFERENCE

## POST-CONFERENCE REPORT



Department of  
Economic Development  
& Tourism

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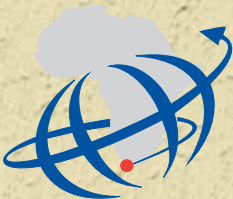
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**Itumeleng Pooe**  
**Director, Dept. of Economic Development and Tourism (Western Cape)**



The first of its kind in South Africa, this conference was a roaring success. Delegates from around the country, the African continent and international destinations attended this two-day event. Held at our prestigious Cape Town International Convention Centre, the stage was perfectly set for top-level debate and interaction between tourism, business, crime prevention, and safety and security experts.

The conference theme, aptly named 'Safety and Security: New Driver of Tourism Economies', focused on how safety and security are key factors in ensuring sustainable tourism growth as well as being a catalyst for trade and investment in South Africa.

Every speaker's address, every discussion and every debate was geared towards nurturing not only an understanding of tourism safety and security needs, but also towards developing practical solutions which could be implemented on both a regional and national level. The breakaway sessions provided a platform for knowledge and experience sharing from across the globe, and have assisted us in plotting the way forward. The commitment from all delegates to ensuring sustainable tourism growth in our country was demonstrated through their involvement in the conference and is greatly welcomed.

The support of the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, and our Provincial Cabinet, as well as the keen participation of international experts is much appreciated. I wish to thank them for their contribution to a successful conference.

I am excited about our tourism safety management plan, in which both the public and private sectors have committed themselves to playing an integral role, and which our local communities can participate in and benefit from. Together we can reap the benefits of offering visitors a safe and secure international tourism destination. It is our intention to convene meetings with reference groups from time to time to review progress.

## **Overview**

**Joyce Witbooi**  
**Western Cape Minister of Tourism and Gambling**

Looking at the proposals of conference delegates, I am satisfied that we have met our objective of harnessing the collective thinking of tourism and safety and security representatives. It is obvious that there was a great need for discussion and unpacking the issues relating to tourism safety and security.



I have to conclude that the issues threatening tourists visiting our province are the same issues threatening our own people. The Provincial Safety and Security Forum assisted by the Destination Marketing Organisation, under the leadership of Mr. Monwabisi Kalawe, will address these as a matter of priority and feed the results back to the industry in the months to come.

The proposals made will also be addressed and discussed at National Government level. In the mean time the Western Cape Tourism Safety and Security Forum will continue the excellent work they have done to date. I will request that they particularly look into the recommendations made for all programmes, especially for a victim support programme, and implement the proposals that can be effected immediately. As with the latest tourism season, the crisis communication team will be on 24-hour standby, meaning that operators and tourists will not be left stranded in their time of need.

I am of the opinion that the input from our international speakers has been of great value. I have also detected the need to continue our international discussions on the topic, as all international tourism destinations are struggling with similar problems. Finally it is essential to address the tourism safety and security issue by bringing communities closer together and making everyone aware that tourism can impact on their standard of living. It is time that our enthusiasm for tourism travels beyond just the tourism industry.