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## DIRECTORATE: CORPORATE COMMUNICATION& ICT

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### Media Statement

**13 September 2016**

**“There is a lot that can be enjoyed in this province”, says MEC Mohono**

**Groot Marico** – The North West MEC for Tourism, Desbo Mohono remains absolute that the North West Province still has a lot to offer in terms of various tourism attractions. Mohono was speaking at one of the province’s hidden gem, the Herman Charles Bosman Museum in Groot Marico where she launched her “Tourism Fridays – Wake Up with the MEC”, an interactive live show, hosted at a less popular tourist destination, where the MEC will give out first hand information on various activities which will be taking place during the tourism month a live interactive.

The focus for this week was on the Groot Marico which is a small bushveld town along the N4 towards Botswana and the provincial capital Mafikeng. Among others the Marico district has attractions such the rock paintings by early San and Bushmen people and an old watermill (now a national monument) on the farm Naauwpoort. Also in the district, at Mabotsa, is the ruin of the first mission erected by David Livingstone.

According to MEC Mohono the province has a very rich history and heritage. “As a department we need to encourage our tour operators to start packaging some of these hidden gems so that we expose them to tourists. A place like the Herman Bosman Museum in the Groot Marico area is a great place indeed. This is also where students can come and do academic research for their citations.

Through the A RE YENG BOKONE BOPHIRIMA brand property, we need to place emphasis on some level of exposure places such these need and let it be known out there that the North West Province has a lot to offer.

We cannot sit on our laurels while we have hidden gems such as this museum where history, culture and heritage has been captured so well. Most of such attractions are found in our Villages, Townships and Small Dorpies”, said Mohono.

Chairperson of the North West Tourism Board, David Mogashoa said that there is a dire need to encourage all people to tour their own backyard during this tourism month.

“We need to start touring our own backyards and not rely on people from outside to come and tour our areas. During this Tourism Month we are promoting universal accessibility. This will also help in ensuring that individuals are familiar with their own tourist attractions and areas of interest. We are encouraging everybody to start traveling and exploring their own backyards”, said Mogashoa.

MEC Mohono will be travelling across all four districts of the province in endeavor to expose some of the province’s hidden tourist attraction sites and places of interest. Through her “Tourism Fridays – Wake Up with the MEC” initiative, MEC Mohono will every Friday of the Tourism Month also interact with general members of the public through a live radio show. “During these Tourism Fridays jamboree, we will then be able to also assess the level at which we as a province are in terms of promoting universal accessibility and ensuring that Tourism is for all”, concluded Mohono.

**-End-**

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## EDITORS NOTES – About Groot Marico

Groot-Marico was made famous by the stories of Herman Charles Bosman who captured the spirit of the Afrikaans farmers of the region in his world-famous books such as *Mafeking Road* and *A Sip of Jerepigo* in the past seven to eight decades. Currently the Bosman's work is being displayed in the Herman Charles Bosman living museum in the heart of the small dorps.

The town Groot-Marico (*Big Marico*) is named after the Groot Marico River, one of the few perennial rivers in this area. The name has nothing to do with the size of the town, which is very small. Groot-Marico is also well known for its beautiful African bushveld surroundings and the special kind of hospitality of its people. It is said that the small town is the ideal place to come to when you want to escape the hustle and bustle of the city life.

The rustic town is a typical North West town, brimming with historical charm and atmosphere. It is also the land of mampoer, a breathtaking strong spirit distilled from fruit. The Marico district also boasts tourism attraction areas such as the sundowner sunset cruise on the Marico Bosveld Dam, Potjiekos at Lekkerbreek Boereklub, a Raft ride to Die Oog (the eye of the Molopo River), slate plant, wine cellars, Mampoer, crocodile farm, game drives, the Home of the Lion and Kaditshwene Ruins – an impressive heritage of 17th century people; Kortkloof Tswana Village; Langkloof and Enzelsberg hiking trails; Mampoer Farms; Marico Bushveld Tours; Marico Dam Nature Reserve; Bushmen rock paintings; Groot Marico/ Herman Charles Bosman weekends.