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## DIRECTORATE: CORPORATE COMMUNICATION & ICT

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### Media Release

**25 September 2018**

### **A night of the stars at North West Lilizela Tourism Awards**

A spectacular award ceremony held in Klerksdorp recently saw the best in the Tourism sector celebrated through the provincial Lilizela Awards. With an increase in the number of entrants in the competition from 68 participants in 2017 this year's awards have gained momentum with 76 participants.

Celebrated annually the Lilizela Tourism Awards celebrates professionalism, creativity and innovation in the tourism industry through 14 categories including the special MEC's Award.

North West Tourism MEC Desbo Mohono said the province is on par with other provinces and that is endorsed through the Lilizela Awards.

"I am proud to say our guest houses, hotels, bed and breakfast establishments, tour operators and many of our institutions are up there with the best, that I do not doubt at all. Our four districts are doing their bit in making sure that our tourists have an unforgettable moment every time they touch base in our prefecture", said MEC Mohono.

MEC Mohono also encouraged stakeholders to strengthen partnerships that construct tourism growth. "Inter- sectoral support will go a long way in terms of transforming our sector, we really need one tree of co-operation between government, business and labour.

“We all have to constantly be bold and innovative thinkers that can be catalysts in the industry and engage on the best practices to map a way forward together”, added Mohono.

The Tourism Friendly Association, made up of different tourism businesses based in Rustenburg saw 9 of their properties walk away as winners at the awards. The Managing Director Iain Gunn says the Lilizela Awards provides a platform that recognises not only excellence but potential.

“The most important thing about winning an award like this is that it really is about those that don’t get celebrated enough, it represents our staff and when we go to nationals we know that we as a company have their backing as well as that of the entire province. This really shows that small companies can grow, next year we will need a bigger venue because we will have hundreds of companies representing the province”, Gunn said.

The department congratulates all finalists and wishes all winners who will represent the province at the National Lilizela Awards in November the best of luck.

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