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Tourism students encouraged to contribute to the industry

North West MEC for Tourism Desbo Mohono has on the new learners enrolled for the 2018 academic year to remain focused and add value to the Tourism industry in the province. About 110 have enrolled to study at the Taung and Mahikeng hotel schools to among others studying Professional Cookery; Food, Beverage and Accommodation Services, Hospitality Management and many other courses offered at both institutions. MEC Mohono made a call during the welcome address in Mafikeng.

Majority of those students are said to be from Villages, Townships and Small Dorpies of the North West Province. "Government is fully behind these learners and we are determined to go all the way in modelling these young people to be entrepreneurs. That is why I have made an effort to engage business people owning tourism establishments to put a hand in the development of these young people. Government has also made provision for those coming from poor background that are determined to make it within the Tourism sector to access free education," said Mohono.

MEC Mohono also committed to continue to engage private businesses to fund learners within the industry. "I have been talking to other businesses outside the province and they have shown interest. I am positive that we are going to register success in this endeavour. Most have show keen interest and are ready," said Mohono.

One of the new learners at the Mafikeng Hotel School, Oratile Lobeko from Kraaipan in the Ratlou Local Municipality was the most happiest among the new comers. She completed her matric in 2013 and has been home mainly because she did not have money to further her studies. However Oratile will be able to start her Professional studies in Professional Cookery as she is one of the students that will be receiving bursary from the Kgetse ya Tsie provincial bursary fund. The 23 year old said that cooking good and mouth-watering dishes has always been her passion.

“My biggest dream is to own a restaurant. I love cooking and it has always been my passion. That is why I have decided to make a career out of this rare skill. I want to thank government for making my dream come true. I am more determined than ever. These is a once in a life time opportunities that we get and I am more than sure that, the skills I will acquire during my studies will be used to further my future and grow the tourism industry,” said Lobeko.

Also welcoming the new students was Ms Golda Gaobepe who is a member of the Tourism Board in the North West. Gaobepe appealed to new students to put a blind eye on non beneficial issues and focus on their education. She further called on them to be determined and be dedicate to their studies during their academic studies. “I want you to study towards starting your own business and not be job seekers. I want you to focus on being entrepreneurs and employ other people within the industry. You have what it takes to be your own boss. I therefore urge you to work hard and make the province, yourselves and your parents proud,” said Gaobepe.

MEC Mohono, members of the North West Tourism Board and officials of the two hotels schools welcomed the newly elected Student Representative Councils of both institutions, as they took a pledge of office for this academic year. Both SRC presidents, committed to bring good relations between management and fellow students and further ensure harmonious relations.

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