



**Press Release – for immediate release**

**13 June 2017**

**City: PM Burg, KZN SA**

### **Min Nzimande Launches Tourism Skills Programmes: Sat 10 June 2017**

As part of our mandate of Tourism Development, we identified skills development as key mechanism to drive sector quality and transformation.

We have sought and acquired CATHSSETA programme approval and accreditation for delivery of SAQA NLRD 14110: Accommodation Services –level 2 and SAQA NLRD 61597: National Certificate: General Travel –level 5.

These were launched officially by National Minister of Higher Education-Dr Blade Nzimande on Saturday, 10 June 2017 at Ilawu Hotel, Pietermaritzburg.

“In November 2015 we hosted then National Deputy Minister of Tourism Tokozile Xasa who launched emerging businesses in transport and accommodation subsectors. Today’s achievement gives impetus to Gidla Express Programme in particular” said Dumisani Mhlongo- Director of Msunduzi Pietermaritzburg Tourism Association.

Gidla Express is a local managed Homestays Programme aimed at catering for accommodation overflow, diversification of local tourism products and encouraging access to tourism sector.

Addressing the launch Minister Nzimande congratulated Msunduzi Pietermaritzburg Tourism Association on achieving accreditation and their Gidla Express initiative. He emphasized the importance of skills development in the transformation of the economic landscape of the country.

Phumzile Kedama -Cathsseta Board Chairman and David Gengan-Msunduzi Municipality Tourism Manager pledged support for Cathsseta and Msunduzi Municipality respectively.

**The end**

For more information contact:  
Msunduzi Pietermaritzburg Tourism Association  
Tel. 033 345 1348/9, / 0845603399