



# LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM

**Press Release**  
**(For immediate release)**

## **MEC Chabane unveils the 2008 Annual Marula Festival Plan**

Limpopo will yet again host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marula Festival to celebrate the rich heritage of our people, promote SMMEs in the marula industry at the same time promoting the tourism potential of our province. Our province is home to the marula trees found mostly in the sub-tropical parts of province and its neighbouring countries. As Phalaborwa has been declared the permanent host of this prestigious event by virtue of its tourism profile and proximity to key tourism destinations, the 2008 3<sup>rd</sup> Marula Festival will take place at Impala Park, Rugby Stadium in Phalaborwa from the 29<sup>th</sup> February to 01<sup>st</sup> March 2008.

### **Brewing of the Marula Beer**

To ensure the same quality brew of the marula festival beverage, a decision has been made to brew the Limpopo Annual Marula Festival beverage at a central venue in Phalaborwa. This proposal will ensure the standardization of the festival beverage. The required quantity for 2008 is eight thousand (8 000) litres of Mukumbi/Vukanyi/Morula beverage. The supply will be provided by the eight (8) registered Mukumbi Co-operatives.

### **Key features of the 2008 Annual Marula Festival**

#### **Golf Challenge**

The Limpopo Marula festival has identified golf as one of the side events to be played at Hans Merensky Golf Estate (one of the notable professional golf courses in the country and a unique tourist attraction in Phalaborwa which is in a position to host up to 160 Golfers in the Tournament). The 2008 Golf Challenge will be held on the 01<sup>st</sup> March at Hans Merensky Golf Estate. The plan is to have a mix of Professional handicapped players, Provincial development Players (HDI) and Youths development players. The official tee-off will be at 06H00.

#### **Marula Festival Half Marathon**

Marathon as one of the mass participation and affordable sport promoting good health and appealing to all age groups irrespective of colour or creed has been identified as one of the festival event. The idea is to attract professional athletes across the country and neighbouring states to participate in the

event in the near future. 2008 will be used as a launch pad for the event and both the Phalaborwa Local Road Runners Club and the Limpopo Athletics and Road Runners Association (LARRA) have already been approached to assist with organizing of the event. The Event is scheduled for the 01<sup>st</sup> March 2008.

### **Open Air Music concert**

This is a melting pot of traditional and all genre of music live performance starting on the 29<sup>th</sup> February to the 01<sup>st</sup> March 2008 as the major entertainment of the festival. The plan is to have a combination of a traditional dance competition and musical concert on both days. Various artists and DJ's are earmarked for the event. The selection include; Ringo Mandlingozi, Colbert Mukwevho, Snotkop (Afrikaans band), Worship House and Xinyori, DJ OSKIDO, DJ MAHOOTA v/s DJ VETKOEK with compliments of ASHIFHASHAVA from CAPRICORN FM.

### **Youth Rugby Competition**

Since the idea of the Limpopo Marula Festival is to create an authentic brand that can be embraced by everyone within the community of Limpopo, this year the festival will incorporate the youth rugby competition (commonly known as Billetjies) to be staged at Impala Park on the 01<sup>st</sup> March 2008.

### **Exhibition**

This event will be used to increase market access and raise awareness on available marula products, Cultural and tourism products within the region involving enterprises and cooperatives from Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North-West, Namibia, Mozambique, Botswana and Zimbabwe. This will present an opportunity to various marula bi-products manufacturers, emerging tourism products as well as those cultural product owners to exhibit and sell their products during the two days of the festival. This year the fair will also incorporate a tourism career fair aimed at raising awareness to youths about the various career opportunities in Tourism.

In preparation for the 2008 Marula Festival, a delegation from Limpopo embarked on a learning mission and participated in the Annual Oktober Beer Festival in Munich, Germany that took place in September 2007 led by MEC Chabane. "Among the critical lessons learnt in Germany is that for the festival to become a success there is a need for appropriate infrastructure, crime free environment and maximum participation of SMMEs", said MEC Chabane.

We call upon all the people of South Africa and Limpopo in particular to join us in this journey to shape the history of our country and restore the pride and dignity of our people.

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