

## Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency draft Bill available for public comment

10 February 2010

The Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency draft Bill has been published for the public to comment. The draft Bill is for the merger between the Eastern Cape Tourism Board (ECTB) and the Eastern Cape Parks Board (ECPB) established in terms of the following Acts respectively: Eastern Cape Tourism Board Act No 8 of 2003 and the Eastern Cape Parks Board Act No 12 of 2003.

The MEC for Economic Development and Environmental Affairs (DEDEA), Mr Mcebisi Jonas outlined the merger process as one of the key priority areas for expanding the services sector. In the Policy Speech for 2009/10, MEC Jonas said: “the amalgamation of parks and tourism boards will go a long way towards ensuring that the full potential of the services sector is realised”.

“The availability of the draft Bill for public comment is a significant milestone for the merger process between the ECPB and ECTB. This will contribute towards gathering contributions from all interested and affected parties before the process is concluded”, says Mr Lutho Nduvane, the General Manager for Merger at DEDEA.

The Eastern Cape administration took a decision to merge the two public entities and the merger is envisaged to result into a single public entity with a consolidated mandate for the management of provincial protected areas and destination marketing with the objective of promoting and developing the tourism industry. The new entity will have a single accounting authority and administration.

The new entity will be established and governed by enabling legislation, to be passed by the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature, and also repealing the enabling legislation of the legacy institutions. The new Act will also make provision for transitional arrangements as well as the take-over of existing personnel, assets and liabilities of the ECTB and ECPB.

Currently, the ECPB and ECTB are under the Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs (DEDEA) and are constituted as separate entities with different accounting authorities and separate administrations.

The draft Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency Bill will be published in the Provincial Gazette Nr 2278 of 10 February 2010. All members of the public and interested parties are invited to comment on the Bill on or before 24 February 2010.

Comments should be addressed to the General Manager: Merger, Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs and submitted in writing either by registered post, hand delivery, e-mail or fax to:

<b>Postal Address</b>	<b>Physical Address</b>
Private Bag X0054 Bisho 5604	Independence Avenue Indwe House Second floor, Office Bisho

<b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:lutho.nduvane@deaet.ecape.gov.za">lutho.nduvane@deaet.ecape.gov.za</a>
<b>Fax:</b> 040 609 3219
<b>Tel:</b> 040 609 3005 or 040 609 3061
<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.dedea.gov.za">www.dedea.gov.za</a>

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Issued by the Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs (DEDEA). For enquiries contact:  
Mr Sixolile Makaula: Communications Manager, Tel: (040) – 609 3299, cell: 072 751 5001, Fax (040) 609 3211,  
e-mail: [Sixolile.Makaula@deaet.ecape.gov.za](mailto:Sixolile.Makaula@deaet.ecape.gov.za)