

2ND ANNUAL

COASTAL & INLAND WATERWAYS TOURISM INVESTMENT SUMMIT



UNLOCKING TRI-PROVINCIAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
THROUGH COASTAL & INLAND WATERWAYS TOURISM



Tuesday - 08 September 2026



Gariep Forever Resort

Gariep Dam • Free State



16:00 - 17:00



For more info:

kamo@marinetourism.co.za

AFRICA COASTAL, MARINE & MARITIME TOURISM ALLIANCE
In collaboration with the National Department of Tourism
www.marinetourism.co.za



AFRICA'S COASTAL, MARINE AND MARITIME
Tourism Alliance



Department:
Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



economic development & tourism
Department of
Economic Development and Tourism
FREE STATE PROVINCE



South Africa
NATIONAL CONVENTION BUREAU

NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY

SAIMI
SOUTH AFRICAN INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME INSTITUTE

PART

TIME	ITEM	LED BY
08:40 - 09:00	Arrival of Deputy Ministers/MEC/Executive Mayor/ DDG/ CEOs/MMs & Senior Managers	

PART ONE

09:00 - 14:00

DATE: 09 SEPTEMBER 2026

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: CHRISTOPHER MASHILO

TIME	ITEM	LED BY
09:15 – 09:30	Welcoming and Introduction of Guests	Executive Mayor of Xariep District Municipality Cllr Irene Mehlomakhulu
09:30 – 09:40	Purpose of the Africa Coastal Marine & Maritime Tourism Alliance (ACMMTA) and expected outcome of the 2-day session	Chairperson of the (ACMMTA) Mr Lusanda Fibi
09:40 – 09:50	Remarks - <i>Unlocking the Economic and Tourism Potential of the Free State's Inland Waterways: Investment, Enterprise Development and Destination Growth</i>	MEC for Finance, Tourism & Economic Development Hon Mr. Toto Makume, MPL
09:50 – 10:00	Remarks - South Africa–India Investment Opportunities in Inland Waterways Tourism	His Excellency Consul General of India Mr Niteen Sub hash Yeolo
10:00 - 10:25	Keynote Address:	Deputy Minister of Tourism Hon Ms. Makhotso Soty, MP
Video Play on Free State Tourism		
10:30 – 10:40	Presentation : National Tourism Investment Priorities: Unlocking the Potential of Inland Waterways for Sustainable Tourism Development	Department of Tourism -Destination Development Mr. Floid Chauke
10:40 – 10:50	Enterprise Development and Transformation Funding <i>Topic:</i> Funding Opportunities for Tourism and Maritime Entrepreneurs <i>Focus:</i> Funding, transformation and enterprise support.	National Empowerment Fund-Manager Third Party Funds Ms. Nokuthula Moloi
10:50 – 11:00	Engagement on Presentation	All
	Tea Break	All
11:15- 11:30	Research, Innovation and Skills Development <i>Topic: Marine Tourism Research and Industry Innovation</i> <i>Focus: Applied research, technology and industry collaboration</i>	Nelson Mandela University Dr Lynn Jonas
11:30- 11:45	Blue Economy Skills Development <i>Topic: Developing Skills for Coastal, Marine and Maritime Tourism Growth</i> <i>Focus: Skills pathways, certification and youth participation.</i>	South African International Maritime Institute (SAIMI) Dr Nomtha Hadi
11:45- 12:00	A learner-centred, performance-driven approach to educational leadership <i>Topic: The establishment of a dedicated maritime footprint within an inland TVET College</i> <i>Focus:</i> Performance-driven maritime programs within TVET colleges	Motheo TVET College Prof Marianna Phutsisi
	Tourism Investment and Smart Destination Development	University of Johannesburg Dr Fumene George Tsibani

12:00- 12:15	Topic: <i>Investment Trends and Future Opportunities in Water-Based Tourism</i> Focus: <i>Smart destinations, investment trends, future demand, and water pool model</i>	
12:15 – 12:30	Discussion with all Delegation on the Presentation	Facilitator
12:30 – 12:45	Free State Province Investment Opportunities Topic: <i>Gariep Dam and Inland Waterways Tourism Development Projects</i> Focus: <i>Waterfront development; boating infrastructure; tourism accommodation; adventure and water sports; community tourism enterprises; cruise and ferry opportunities.</i>	Free State Provincial Government Dr Mafole Mokalobe
12:45 – 13:00	Infrastructure Financing Opportunities Topic: <i>Financing Tourism and Blue Economy Infrastructure Projects</i> Focus: <i>Project preparation, blended finance and infrastructure funding.</i>	Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) – (TBC)
13:00 – 13:15	Q & A / Discussion on the Presentation	Programme Facilitator

13:15 – 14:15

LUNCH AT THE RESORT RESTAURANT

SAPS WATER SAFETY DEMONSTRATION (TOURISM SAFETY)

ALL DELEGATES VISIT THE SUSTAINABLE VILLAGE TO BUY PRODUCTS OFFERED AT THE STALLS.

PART TWO

14:15-14:30	High-growth commercial opportunities in inland water areas	<i>National Empowerment Fund</i>
14:30 – 14:45	Tourism Research, Policy Development and Planning: Northern Cape coastal marine tourism strategy	Northern Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism Mr Andile Mlawu
High-Level Panel Discussion		
14:45-15:45	Topic: <i>Building a Competitive Coastal, Marine and Inland Waterways Tourism Economy</i> Focus: <i>Practical coordination, investment barriers, project delivery, youth employment, partner commitments and Tourism Safety.</i>	Department of Tourism; DBSA; NEF; Nelson Mandela University; Motheo TVET College, University of Johannesburg; SAIMI; ACMMTA, SAPS
15:45-16:00	Delegates Engage with Panel Members	Panel Facilitator
16:00-16:10	Summit Resolutions and Way Forward Focus: <i>Adoption of resolutions, flagship project pathway, responsible partners and deadlines.</i>	Dr Nomtha Hadi
16:10-16:20	Closing Remarks Focus: <i>Summary of commitments and post-summit accountability.</i>	DG Office of the Premier Dr Phera

16:20-16:30	Ceremonial Signing <i>Focus: signing of the Memorandum of Agreement and Conclusion of the formal summit program</i>	ACCMT and Tourism
18:30-21:00	Networking Dinner Focus: Relationship building, investment conversations and partnership announcements	Hosted by the Free State Province
END OF DAY ONE		

DAY TWO 10 SEPTEMBER 2026

Forever Resort Gariep Dam

09:00	Assembly and Departure Briefing	
09:15 – 09:30	Remarks: <i>Advancing Inland Waterways Tourism through the District Development Model: Building an Integrated and Investment-Ready Xhariep District</i>	Deputy Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disability Hon Ms. Mapaseka Letsike, MP
09:30 – 09:40	Discussion on Economy opportunities to be priorities be DDM in Xariep District	All
09:30-09:45	<i>Safety briefing, route overview and allocation of participants.</i>	Tour Coordinator
10:00-13:00	Gariep Dam Coastal, Marine and Inland Waterways Tourism Familiarization Tour <i>Host destination and technical partners</i> Focus: <i>Site visits: Gariep Dam waterfront; boating and water-recreation facilities; tourism accommodation establishments; community tourism projects; proposed investment sites; marine and inland waterways tourism development opportunities.</i>	
13:00-14:00	Lunch and Departure	All

1. Expected Outcomes

- A flagship Gariep Dam youth tourism legacy project adopted with an implementation lead, partner commitments, delivery milestones and a financing roadmap.
- A stronger pipeline of investment-ready waterfront, accommodation, transport, recreation and community tourism projects.
- Practical training, work-placement, procurement, enterprise-development and employment opportunities for local youth.
- Improved coordination among national and provincial government, municipalities, investors, funders, academia, industry and communities.
- Greater investor confidence in coastal, marine and inland waterways tourism opportunities and in Gariep Dam as an investable destination.
- A shared approach to environmental stewardship, climate resilience, safety, compliance and sustainable destination development.
- Clear summit resolutions, responsible institutions and time-bound actions supported by transparent follow-up reporting.
- Water distribution and water pool – smart tourism destination