



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT FOR 2015 DSTV MITCHELL'S PLAIN FESTIVAL**

I am delighted to endorse the 2015 DSTV Mitchell's Plain Festival, following the success of this event over the past six years.

It is encouraging that over 31 000 paying patrons attended last year's Festival, and an additional 4000 pensioners, disabled persons and children entered at no charge. I congratulate the organisers for continuing to make this event more and more accessible to our most vulnerable citizens, and thank all sponsors for their valuable contributions.

Last year's Festival broke new ground by sponsoring the first farewell party for grade 7 learners at Heinz Park Primary School, which brought immense pride and joy to their parents and their community. The top four learners who were provided with mobile computer equipment by Vodacom now have the resources they need to join the digital world. I join the community in thanking Vodacom for this kind gesture.

Proceeds from last year's Festival also supported the local Community Police Forum's annual event to honour neighbourhood watch members, who play a vital role in making our communities safe.

It is pleasing to note that plans for this year's festival include promoting a healthy lifestyle, and encouraging people to take care of the environment by using environmentally friendly products in their stalls.

I commend the organisers for continuing to use the Festival as a platform to promote greater levels of tolerance, nation building and social cohesion, and wish you the best of luck for this year's event.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derek Hanekom".

Derek Hanekom

Minister: Tourism