

and encouraging political commitment to integrate these priorities into national and regional agendas.

Investing in People

Beyond borders and bureaucracy, the ministers were united on another front: investing in Africa's people and infrastructure.

De Lille mentioned a dedicated tourism investment summit in South Africa for September, inviting African ministers to pitch opportunities. "There is a great need for infrastructure investment in tourism assets. We need to work together with all three spheres of

government in terms of access, road and water."

On skills, she was blunt: "We need to stop training people and then giving them a certificate, and they cannot find jobs. We are going to invest in demand-led skills that are needed in the sector, so that when you train young people, they are able to get a job after that training."

She challenged the private sector: "They must project what will be the skills needed in the tourism sector in the next five to ten years. Then we need to go to the universities and institutions of higher learning and let them start changing

their curriculum to produce those skills."

No discussion on open borders is complete without acknowledging the concerns over security and illegal immigration. When pressed on the issue, the ministers did not dodge. "Visas are a necessity for people who want to come into the country, but we must find ways to deal with illegal immigration without stifling the movement of genuine travellers and entrepreneurs."

Time for Action

Throughout the session, one theme rang out above all: enough talk. It is time for action. As Sikumba put it, "Anything that will not be able to be implemented should be taken off our checklist."

The ministers called on every African government, business leader, and citizen to join the movement:

- Invest in infrastructure and skills that empower young Africans.
- Champion cross-border collaboration-from joint marketing to seamless travel experiences.
- Celebrate and showcase Africa's unique cultures as the continent's greatest asset.
- Embrace technology to make travel easier, safer, and more inclusive.

As the panel closed, Sikumba reminded the audience. "We are here to build a new Africa-one where our people move freely, prosper together, and show the world our true potential."



DISCOVERING THE CRADLE OF LEADERSHIP: QUNU AND MQHEKEZWENI

As we continue to celebrate the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela at Africa's Travel Indaba, we invite travelers to explore the picturesque village of Qunu and the historic Great Place at Mqhekezweni. These two locations played a significant role in shaping the values and leadership style of the iconic leader.

Qunu: A Glimpse into Mandela's Childhood

Qunu, a small village in the Eastern Cape, is where Nelson Mandela spent his childhood, surrounded by the rolling hills and lush landscapes of the region. Visitors can explore the village, visit Mandela's humble home, and pay their respects at his resting place. The Youth and Heritage Centre, located in Qunu, offers a unique glimpse into Mandela's early life and provides stunning views of the surrounding countryside.



The Youth and Heritage Centre offers a range of facilities, including:

- Travelling exhibitions that explore Mandela's life and legacy
- Conference facilities for meetings, workshops, and events
- Kitchen facilities for catering and events
- Accommodation for visitors and guests
- Venue hire for weddings, events, programs, and camps

This centre is a must-visit destination for anyone interested in Mandela's life and the history of the Eastern Cape. The combination of natural beauty, cultural significance, and modern facilities makes it an ideal location for a variety of events and activities.

Plan Your Visit

If you're planning to visit Qunu and Mqhekezweni, we recommend allowing at least a day to explore each location. Guided tours are available, and visitors can also stay in our Qunu Accommodation Facility.

Mqhekezweni: The Cradle of Leadership

Mqhekezweni Great Place, located near Mthatha, is where Mandela was sent to live with Regent Jongintaba Dalindyebo, the paramount chief of the Thembu people. It was under the regent's guidance that Mandela learned valuable leadership skills, including diplomacy, negotiation, and conflict resolution. The Great Place at Mqhekezweni is a historic site that showcases the traditional



architecture and cultural heritage of the Thembu people.

Join Us at Africa's Travel Indaba

We're excited to share the story of Qunu and Mqhekezweni with travelers and industry professionals at Africa's Travel Indaba, please visit our stand DEC J15. Our team will be on hand to answer questions, provide insights, and showcase the region's offerings.

We look forward to welcoming you to our stand and sharing the spirit of these incredible destinations with you.

For more information about the Nelson Mandela Museum, the Bhunga Building, and the Youth and Heritage Centre, please contact on our social media platforms

Facebook: Nelson Mandela Museum

Twitter: @Mandela Museum

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