



Sabelo Mahlalela, Moses Mabuza, Craig Padayachee, Bradley Brouwer and Mandla Mazibuko.

MTPA sparkles at Friday's ceremony

Christine Rossouw

DURBAN - At a sparkling ceremony on Friday night, the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) welcomed the province's indaba delegates at the Balmoral Hotel.

All the top dogs in MTPA, the international IBM volunteers and Craig Padayachee, who during his term as MEC for economic planning and development had played an integral role in the MTPA's efforts to build the province into a world-class tourist destination, were present.

Padayachee, whom MTPA CEO Charles Ndabeni credited as the reason for MTPA's fruitful growth and successful execution of projects in the last three years was welcomed amid roaring applause to present his final address as MEC.

"Working with you has been a pleasure. I have gained a lot of knowledge. Every interaction with you made me a better



MTPA CEO Charles Ndabeni

person and I want to thank you for making my life a happy one. This has been a good stay for me and I am sure the incoming MEC will have an as rewarding stay here as I have had," Padayachee said.

In a surprise turn of events, the MTPA utilised the welcoming ceremony to award Bradley Brouwer, South African tourism country manager in Japan with a special accolade, awarded only to those who have gone above the call of duty in supporting MTPA to achieve their goals.

"Thanks to Brouwer, Mpumalanga has developed a fruitful relationship with South Korea and Japan. In 2007, South Africa had 40 000 arrivals from Japan, 9 000 of which visited Mpumalanga. By July last year, 50 Japanese tour operators featured Mpumalanga in their tour guides and R2 million worth of media coverage was received in Japan. In November, Mpumalanga was the only province invited to participate in the 2010 symposium in Asia" said Ndabeni.

According to Brouwer, it has made it so much easier for him to sell South Africa with the amazing support he has received from Mpumalanga. It is perceived as the safest province to visit, hence why it appeals to the Asian market.



Craig Padayachee.

All occasions hiring

Marquees

Table linen

Tables & Chairs

Spit Braai's

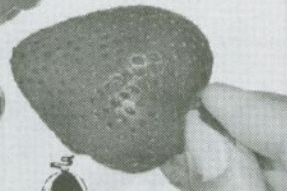
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