

## NEF celebrates the launch of Rensia Palace and Spa: A major step for tourism and economic development in Limpopo

[Thohoyandou, Limpopo] – The National Empowerment Fund (NEF) is thrilled to announce the successful launch of Rensia Palace and Spa, a transformative development set to redefine tourism and economic prospects in Limpopo. The grand opening on 6 September 2024 marked a pivotal moment for the local community and the broader economic landscape of the province.

### A landmark development in Thohoyandou

Situated at the strategic junction of Punda Maria Road and Road D3756, Rensia Palace and Spa is set to become a landmark in Thohoyandou, a town renowned as the administrative and legislative centre for the Vhembe district. Founded by Ms Nkhumeleni Mamphitha, this R20 million project underscores a powerful vision of entrepreneurship and community impact. The NEF's investment of R6.3 million plays a crucial role in supporting the acquisition of essential furnishings, landscaping and working capital for Rensia Palace and Spa. This support aligns with the NEF's broader strategy to drive economic empowerment and growth through targeted investments in priority provinces such as Limpopo, Eastern Cape, Free State, Mpumalanga, North West and the Northern Cape.

The facility, which aims for a 4-star grading, offers a range of luxurious accommodation options including Deluxe Suites, Executive Suites and Presidential Suites, as well as upscale amenities such as a rooftop bar, a cigar connoisseur's room and a state-of-the-art conference facility.

### Strategic investment in Limpopo

The NEF's involvement in this project is not only a celebration of black women entrepreneurship but also a strategic investment in one of South Africa's key provinces. Limpopo, identified as one of six priority provinces for the NEF's disbursements, has been targeted for its vast potential in driving economic growth and development. This investment is particularly significant as it aligns with the NEF's mission to support projects that stimulate local economies and create sustainable job opportunities.

Chief Financial Officer Mr Phumudzo Siphuma, who attended the launch event, highlighted the importance of this development: "The inauguration of Rensia Palace and Spa is a momentous occasion for the National Empowerment Fund. Our support for this project reflects our commitment to empowering black women entrepreneurs and fostering economic growth in key provinces such as Limpopo. This region holds immense potential for tourism and economic development and we are proud to be part of this transformative venture."

### A decade of empowering women entrepreneurs

"As we celebrate the opening of Rensia Palace and Spa, it is also fitting to reflect on our journey over the past decade. This year, the NEF marks a significant milestone having reached ten years of the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF). Since its inception in 2014, the WEF has been instrumental in supporting black women entrepreneurs across South Africa. Over this period, the NEF has disbursed R4.5 billion countrywide, fostering growth across diverse sectors including manufacturing, retail, construction and many others," explains the NEF's Limpopo Regional Manager, Mr Ishamel Mogoboya.

He says the WEF offers significant advantages such as preferential pricing, entrepreneurial training, and mentorship support, which have empowered numerous women-led businesses to thrive. For the current financial year, our target of R675 million in disbursements includes 35% allocated through the WEF, highlighting our unwavering commitment to supporting women entrepreneurs.

#### **Enhancing tourism and economic upliftment**

“Rensia Palace and Spa’s location near prominent attractions like Kruger National Park, Nandoni Dam and Thavhani Mall positions it as a prime destination for both leisure and business travellers. The facility’s diverse offerings, including a rooftop bar, an elegant restaurant and high-quality conference rooms, cater to the growing demand for premium hospitality services in the area. This development not only enhances the local tourism landscape but also contributes to the broader economic upliftment of Limpopo,” adds Mr Mogoboya.

Ms Mamphitha, the visionary behind Rensia Palace and Spa, expressed her excitement and gratitude: “The successful launch of Rensia Palace and Spa is a testament to the power of perseverance and community support. This project represents a dream realised and a significant contribution to our local economy. The backing from the NEF and our dedicated partners has been instrumental in bringing this vision to life. We are committed to providing exceptional hospitality and contributing positively to the growth of tourism in Limpopo.”

#### **A milestone for the region**

The launch event was attended by esteemed representatives from the traditional council, dignitaries, and government officials, reflecting the broad support and recognition of the project’s potential. This significant milestone is expected to bolster tourism in the region, attracting both local and international visitors and contributing to the province’s economic development.

For further information about Rensia Palace and Spa, please visit <https://rensia.co.za/>

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