

Workshops to help tourism industry get BEE act together

By **KIM HELFRICH**

THE tourism industry is slowly getting its BEE house in order.

This month will see further consultation and a series of provincial workshops following the gazetting of Codes of Good Practice for Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment.

"The codes differ somewhat from the Tourism BEE Charter, and both have to be aligned so the industry can move forward to transformation," Tourism BEE Charter Council chairman Tami Sokutu said.

"The differences are mostly around definitions, principles and terminology and can be easily aligned, but it is important industry buys into it.

"An important aspect to be agreed on is the definition of an exempt micro enterprise.

"The codes exempt business with an annual turnover of less than R5 million from complying. Our own scorecard exempts such businesses only from the ownership element.

"This has major implications for thousands of tourism businesses."

A series of workshops will be followed next month by a national conference on BEE in tourism.

"The April 17 conference will be definitive and chart the way for all tourism businesses and companies to implement BEE against targets and timeframes," Sokutu said.

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