



www.experiencenortherncape.com

MEDIA RELEASE

5 MAY 2018

MEET THE FIRST VOTED SOUTH AFRICA'S TOURISM AMBASSADOR FROM THE NORTHERN CAPE AT INDABA 2018

MESHACK Nkadimang, the first voted tourism ambassador in South Africa from the Northern Cape, is attending the Indaba Travel Show where he will showcase his tourism offerings and share his life story on how tourism has transformed his life.

The owner of Hotel Kgalagadi from Batlharos in Kuruman, Nkadimang is a respected village character and was voted South Africa's first tourist ambassador in 2008. In the same year, Hotel Kgalagadi won the coveted Northern Cape Emerging Small Tourism Enterprise of the Year Award (ETAYA award).

A son of the Chief, Nkadimang said there was nothing his father could do to prevent his people from being evicted from their land. In 1964, his community was swept aside in apartheid's forced removals. Chief Nkadimang refused to leave, imploring those around him to stand up for their homes. He was beaten to a pulp for his actions. Attempting to aid his father, sling in hand, the younger Meshack was subjected to the same treatment.

The community was dispersed, with most families ending up some 10 kilometres from their ancestral home, where they remained until they were moved again in 1977. They were dumped near Kuruman, and by that time, Meshack was just a child when he experienced the uprooting of everything he knew for the first time. After all the struggle he went through as a child, Meshack has learnt to rely on himself. Making the best of his imposed home, he developed into an entrepreneur, and now running multiple businesses.

He refurbished old cars, creates art and runs a successful hotel. The latter, which he designed and built in 2004, is Meshack's pride and joy. Hotel Kgalagadi is the exultation of a self-made man who had every reason to give up or wait for others to undo the injustices inflicted upon him. He chose to make his own way, leaning on the community around him for support. His attitude is what makes a true South African success story.

Ends.

For media enquiries please contact Tebogo Velembu on +27 (0)71 461 3150 or email tebogo@experiencenortherncape.com