



Minister JT Radebe

## ADVERTORIAL FOR THE COMING INTO FORCE OF THE NATIONAL SMALL VESSELS SAFETY REGULATIONS, 2007

South Africa's Inland Waterways comprise of 23 major rivers and over 300 State dams. These waterways sustain many different boating activities, such as sailing, power boating, water-skiing, jet skiing and fishing. The small vessels used for these pursuits on our waterways are estimated to number over 200 000. There seems to always have been a culture of lawlessness, which the recent promulgation (on 8 August 2008) of the Department of Transport's National Small Vessels Safety Regulations aims to rectify. The novel feature of these regulations is that owners of all commercial small vessels or pleasure vessels of 9 metres or more in overall length or a power-driven vessel with a propulsion power exceeding 15 horsepower, would be required to hold a Certificate of Competence in these previously unregulated waters when the Regulations come into force on 8 August 2008.

The effective regulation of South Africa's waterways would attempt to bring a better life for all, especially those communities involved in and dependent on this industry. The pursuit of this has led to the

promulgation of the National Small Vessels Safety Amendment Regulations, 2008, published on 11 July 2008. We are adamant that the socio-economic impact of all economic activities taking place would support the Government's initiatives of halving unemployment by 2014 and alleviating poverty. My Department will ensure smooth implementation of these regulations through extensive nationwide awareness campaigns and road shows. In addition, my Department will establish an Advisory Committee, which will seek to promote the efficient administration of these Regulations. This Committee will be broadly representative of the South Africa's boating industry fraternity.

Isolated accidents and incidents still occurring on our waterways remain our biggest concern, irrespective of the minority of these occurrences. We still unequivocally pronounce that under no circumstances should commercial considerations be given precedence over the safety of life and property, as well as the protection of the marine life of our waterways.

### ENQUIRIES COULD BE DIRECTED TO

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