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PATRICIA De Lille was previously the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure and Mayor of Cape Town from 2011 to 2018. | African News Agency (ANA)

NEW MINISTER

Tourism bodies hail De Lille's appointment

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SOUTH Africa's Tourism Ministry has a new head. President Cyril Ramaphosa this week appointed Patricia De Lille as Minister of Tourism.

De Lille takes over from Lindiwe Sisulu who was in office since 5 August 2021.

De Lille comes with a strong background as she was previously the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure and Mayor of Cape Town from 2011 to 2018.

The two bodies that play a crucial role in promoting the tourism and hospitality sectors of the country, the Federated Hospitality Association of South Africa (FEDHASA) and the Southern Africa Tourism Services Association (SATSA), have reacted positively.

FEDHASA's National Chairperson, Rosemary Anderson, welcomed the appointment, saying: "We look forward to working with her and unlocking the enormous potential that tourism holds for South Africa."

SATSA co-chair Oupa Pilane also congratulated De Lille.

"We extend our congratulations to our new minister of tourism. We look forward to working closely with her to advance tourism in the country through meaningful structured engagement so that more South Africans directly experience the benefit that tourism can bring," said Pilane.