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Thebe Tourism Group Announces departure of Chief Executive Officer

Thebe Tourism Group CEO Jeff Squire has announced his intention to leave the group in July this year after six years with the company.

Squire joined Thebe Tourism Group as Executive Director in 2002, four years after its formation in 1998. He later succeeded then CEO Jan van Huysteen in 2003. His leadership saw the group grow to become South Africa's largest black owned tourism group with 17 subsidiaries and operations across five continents. Thebe Tourism Group's operations include business tourism, travel and logistics, tourism retail and the management of key tourism destinations and assets.

Announcing his decision, Squire said: "March 2008 sees the end of my contract with Thebe Tourism Group. I feel that I have succeeded in achieving the goals that I initially set myself when I accepted the position of CEO and that this is the right time to make way for a new person to lead Thebe Tourism Group to even greater heights."

In order to ensure a smooth transition, the Board of Thebe Tourism Group requested that Squire remain until July to ensure that the handover process is completed.

"The Board of Thebe Tourism Group wishes to thank Jeff for his immense contribution to the group. He has been pivotal to our success in the tourism sector and we are sad to see him go," said Thebe Tourism Group Chairman Vusi Khanyile. "We fully understand the reasons for his departure and we wish him well in his future endeavours."

"He has successfully led a strategy of acquiring small and medium sized tourism businesses, streamlining their operations and aggressively pursuing business growth, thereby catapulting Thebe Tourism Group into a market leader in a very short period," Khanyile continued.

Squire has also been successful in building an experienced and focused management team across all the operations in the group. Amongst the highlights of his tenure was the securing of a South African franchise agreement with leading global retail foreign exchange company, Travelex operated by FX Africa, a member of the Thebe Tourism Group.

"It has been immensely rewarding to see Thebe Tourism Group grow to the strength that it has today. I have every confidence that Thebe Tourism Group has the right team in place with the vision, skill and energy to take the group to the next level," said Squire.

Squire has over 20 years local and international experience in the tourism industry, having previously worked for Abercrombie & Kent and Orient Express Hotels.

An announcement regarding a new head of Thebe Tourism Group will follow once the appointment has been made.

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