



August News Letter

Kalahari Kuierfees 4th—6th September

Please support the Kuierfees. Once again their team have worked very hard to bring some 1st class entertainment to Upington.

They are kicking off the proceedings with a dance at NABA Lodge with the Official South African Police Services Band providing the music. Should be FANTASTIC!



Gordonia Hospital the saga continues;

Nocci have approached the management of Gordonia Hospital in connection with the lack of facilities for Cataract surgery, and it would seem that we have just scratched the surface. There is a lot more that needs attention than just the eye clinic.

Nocci have contacted the MEC for health via a letter but to date have only received a fax acknowledging receipt of the letter. Perhaps its time to put our hospital under “Carte Blanch’s Spotlight”?

Your comments and suggestions would be appreciated. Tel:054:3311009 (office hours)

We have however contacted Assmang Mines and they are considering the matter.

Dr. Ganchi and Lesley Nugent will do a presentation to the board at the Mine on Wednesday 3rd September.

The hospital is in such need that I would like to put out a request to all our

Corporate Members; If you have a “Social Responsibility budget” please would you contact us.

The Pediatric ward at the hospital is pretty awful, and the hospital needs to improve its Renal Unit. They have the dialysis' machines but the area they need to use them in needs upgrading.

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TO ALL TOURISM STAKEHOLDERS AND INTERESTED PARTIES MAKE YOUR VOICE KNOWN ON THE NORTHERN CAPE TOURISM ENTITY BILL, 2008

The Department of Tourism, Environment and Conservation is engaged in a process to amend the Northern Cape Tourism Act No 5 of 1998.

The Department has produced a Northern Cape Tourism Entity Bill, 2008 which will see the above Act (Northern Cape Tourism Act No 5 of 1998) being repealed and a new Act (Northern Cape Tourism Entity Act, 2008) being promulgated to govern the management of tourism in the Northern Cape.

The amendments to the Northern Cape Tourism Act No 5 of 1998 is necessary as these seek to align tourism legislation with the "White Paper on the Development and Promotion of Tourism in the Northern Cape" which was adopted in October 2006.

The "White paper on the Development and Promotion of Tourism in the Northern Cape" is a strategic framework which guides the growth of the tourism sector in the province. The Northern Cape Tourism Entity Bill, 2008 has been presented to and endorsed by the provincial cabinet on the 20 August 2008 and is now available for written representations and comments by relevant stakeholders in the tourism sector and interested parties.

The Department encourages stakeholders in the tourism sector and interested parties in the Province to seize the opportunity and make the necessary comments on the Northern Cape Tourism Entity Bill, 2008 not later than the 12 September 2008.

The Department of Tourism, Environment and Conservation will be conducting a road show through out the Province to present and entice the submission of written comments on the Northern Cape Tourism Entity Bill, 2008. The road show will be held as follows:

Upington: 04 September 2008 at 11H00 (TBC)

Contact persons for the District Road shows are:

Kimberley and Upington- Mr. Andile Mlawu 053 807 7390/0789321862

Copies of the Northern Cape Tourism Entity Bill, 2008 can be obtained by stakeholders and interested parties from Mr. Les Abrahams at the following contacts: 053 832 1022.

Written comments should also be sent to Mr. Les Abrahams at labrahams@ncpg.gov.za or fax to 053 832 1026.

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**COMMENTS ON THE STATE OF TOURISM IN THE PROVINCE.
BY KPMG.
HOW CAN WE AS A COMMUNITY RECTIFY THE PROBLEMS
EXPERIENCED IN UPINGTON?**

A letter from Johan can Schalkwyk; Manager of Partnerships and Industry Development for Northern Cape Government.

I would like to relate the information to you which flowed from an informal discussion with the KPMG team responsible for the provincial tourism resource audit last Friday after the Steering Committee meeting: KPMG made available a team of experts to travel through the province with the purpose to survey all tourism businesses and attractions and with this in mind I posed the question that based on their experience traveling through the Northern Cape, what frustrates them about us as a destination? I did this to get a good grip on what the ordinary tourist would experience when visiting us as a destination.

The following is a summary of their response

- Accessibility and distance between towns is a challenge. This makes it impossible to do a number of towns in one day like with Mpumalanga or Western Cape.
- We are not making enough of the unique/traditional food & beverages of the Northern Cape.
- The market as a general perception of the Northern Cape that its best only for sleeping over when doing long trips, say between Johannesburg and Cape Town.
- Costs of getting to the Northern Cape via airports is prohibiting.
- Very low market awareness of the various attractions and facilities (accommodation, restaurants, etc).
- Wide perception with accommodation owners that money spent on joining the grading system is money spent for nothing.
- Low customer service levels almost across the board - tourist information offices, accommodation, restaurants, retail shops, etc.
- Tourism product owners show a tendency to be not interested in government tourism initiatives.
- Government lacks credibility in the provincial tourism industry.
- The local tourism product owners do not have a good relationship with their local municipalities, especially in Upington. Issues usually are about signage, lack of visible street names and tourist information offices.
- Tourist information offices are not in a position to provide information on events taking place, entertainment for the day or best night life spots.
- Tourist information officers (the staff) and tourism product owners lack the capacity to let visitors experience an authentic "how we live here" experience.

At least the tourism resource audit will offer us a way out of some of the above constraints and work will start this week already to begin with implementation of some of the interim recommendations.

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**These are disturbing allegations, but not impossible to correct.
We know we have a great product, lets each and everyone try to be a
Tourist Ambassador for Upington!**

BECOME INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY



Allon Raiz (author of this note) sits on a steering committee that is bidding for an

international conference to be hosted in South Africa in 2009. The organizing committee came through from the States to check out South Africa's bid. The subject of American politics came up and I was introduced to a new term called FlipFlop politicians.

The American media have become rabid about politicians who say one thing one day and the opposite on another.

They scan each politician's speech for any contradiction to previous speeches. A politician who changes his/her mind is regarded as untrustworthy and is then labeled a FlipFlop politician thus almost certainly ending their careers.

The concept of consistency is equally important for entrepreneurs. It is equally important for anyone in an organisation who wants to be taken seriously. People do business with people they trust. It's part of our primal instinct. We want to hunt with people we can rely on. We don't want to second guess where Joe is when we are surrounding the Mammoth. If we trust that Joe will be in his designated place in the hunt, then Joe is an asset to us; if Joe might not be in his designated position, he is a liability.

The same can be said for leadership. It is more likely to follow a consistent leader who has a slightly different value system from your own than an inconsistent one who does share your value system.

So, no matter what position you might be in, at the moment, try to make sure you are consistent in your actions, consistent in your re-actions, consistent in you values and consistent in your views. Reliability builds trust and trust builds your ability to achieve your personal goals.

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This Week's Challenge

Act as your own observer this week. Observe every sentence, every tone, and every action and answer a simple question. "Based on my observations, would I 100% trust this person?"

1. 2008 Tax Season

Following a meeting with SARS on 13th August, Business was urged to submit their payroll records before the close of the deadline on 29th August. To date some 42000 employers have submitted reconciliation declarations (EMP501 forms) relating to 2, 5 million employees. The EMP 501 reconciles the taxes deducted from employee remunerations (PAYE) with the payments made to SARS on behalf of such employees. Employers who fail to submit such reconciliation declarations will make it difficult for their employees to submit their tax returns for the tax season that opens on 1st September. For those employers who have not yet fulfilled the submission requirement, SARS suggested that they focus initially on reconciling the 2008 season data. The 2007 data may be submitted later and may not incur penalties as severe as those to be incurred for not submitting the 2008 returns within the deadline time. Businesses must attend to this obligation now!

2. Preferential Procurement (PP)

Differences occur between the legislation under the Preferential Procurement Act, administered by the National Treasury, and the provisions of the BBBEE Codes administered by the DTI. From the Trade & Industry Chamber of NEDLAC it is understood that meetings between the two arms of government are taking place 'at a very high level' to resolve those differences. The introduction of an Amending Bill would be prioritized.

3. Consumer Protection

Agreement was reached in NEDLAC to include Trade Unions in those bodies to which the Act will not apply. Thus the Act will not apply to any transaction -

Pertaining to services supplied under an employment contract

Between a member of an organization registered under the LRA

If the consumer is the state, an organ of state or juristic person and the value of the transaction exceeds a threshold to be determined by the Minister.

In another process, the issue of criminal sanctions on labelling is on review.

4. Second Hand Goods Act

The Second-Hand Goods Act 2008 comes into operation on a date yet to be proclaimed by the President in the Government Gazette. Goods affected include controlled metals, jewellery, agricultural implements, bicycles, household/office/factory equipment, tyres, communication/photographic equipment, antiques, motor vehicles and parts, sports goods, clothing, valuables and books.

5. McDonald's Big Mac Index (Economist Jul 26th)

This index that equates exchange rates according to a purchasing power parity (PPP) measurement using the McDonald's burger implies that the Rand was undervalued by 37% against the US dollar. However, care must be taken in drawing conclusions from fast food prices. Such prices can vary with local costs such as rents, wages and the price of ingredients.

Enquiries Bill Lacey

Email consultant@sacci.org.za

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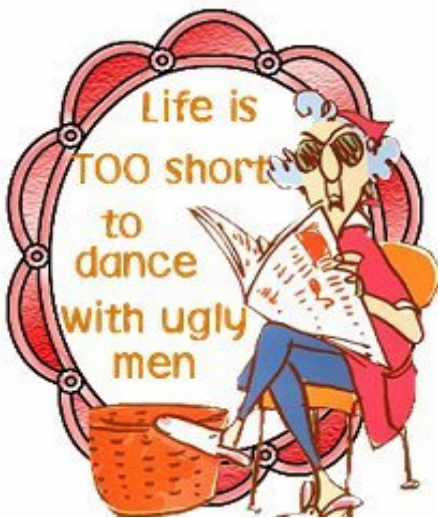
News From The Saudi Embassy

You are hereby informed of the New Business Visa Policy announced by the Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry for business relations between South Africa and Saudi Arabia.

Saudi visas may now be issued to foreign business people without a visa or letter of invitation from the Chamber of Commerce or any Saudi firm.

Enquiries relating to the new policy may be directed to Ms Mia- Christine Wilken, the Foreign Service Officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs for the Middle East branch on the following :

Tel : 012 351 1645
Fax : 012 323 0442
Email : wilkenm@foreign.gov.za



To All the Ladies who read this e-mail and for the men with a sense of humour.....this is for you. Hope you had a great "Women's month.

Our thanks to ABSA Bank for a wonderful treat last Saturday Afternoon to celebrate Women's month..



CAPITEC BANK

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING OUR NETWORKING BREAKFAST THIS MONTH. TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED THANK YOU, WE HOPE YOU MADE MANY NEW BUSINESS CONTACTS

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SUBSCRIPTIONS.

To those members who have paid their subscriptions a big thank you.

To those who still have to pay..... PLEASE its your contribution that keeps the office open for business.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CHAMBER

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS.

UTI SPEED SERVICES | UPINGTON SHOW

SECOWA TRADING

NEDBANK RETAIL

ANNLIN IMPORT/EXPORT

IMPORTANT DATE TO DIARISE.

NOCCI'S ANNUAL GALA EVENT WILL BE HELD ON
FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2008.



Nocci is privileged to have Dr. Stef Coetzee Executive Director of the Afrikaanse Handels Insituut as our guest speaker.

Dr. Coetzee is an "old Upingtoner" so please lets give him a great Upington welcome.

Airlink have become our first sponsor for the evening and have offered to sponsor Dr. Coetzee's air ticket.

THANK YOU AIRLINK.



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In conclusion.

We would like to remind our members why they created a chamber. It is our duty to pass on to each and everyone of our members ANY chance at a business opportunity that arrives on our desks.

Sometimes these opportunities take a little longer to become reality others don't materialize at all.

It is not our function at Nocci to ignore any ideas which are presented to us. Our function is to pass those ideas on to our members to accept or reject as they see fit.

Every possible Investor creates an excitement through the office, so please bear with us if some of these "hyped up" projects have not yet materialized, the power to realize of these projects lies with you our members not with the office. We just make sure that you stay informed.

I write this as there seems to be a perception that NOCCI should be "delivering the goods". Our role is to pass on the information and assist our members where we can to improve the Economic growth of Upington.

MISSION STATEMENT,

Mission

- Fulfilling our mandates of attracting & retaining direct investment into Upington
- marketing the business image of Upington
- Living the aspirations and spirit of the new South Africa
- Contributing to the growth and development of Upington through our commitment and co-operation with local, regional and provincial government.

Driving shared growth and strategic alignment as priority approaches to development

Core Mandate

- Attracting and facilitating direct investment into Upington.

Marketing Upington as a competitive South African business location within the national and international arenas

Vision

To make Upington & the Siyanda district a competitive business destination in South Africa.

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Onthou Tafelronde se jaarlikse NAGGHOLF

DATUM: 17 OKTOBER 2008

VENUE: UPINGTON GHOLFklub

TYD: 18:00h

PRYS: R1000:00 (PER 4 BAL) ETE INGESLUIT

KONTAK: JAMES: 0828278770

GROETE,

TAFELRONDE



SUIWER ARABIERPERD NOORD-KAAP STREEKS KAMPIOEN- SKAPPESUIWER ARABIERPERD NOORD-KAAP STREEKS KAMPIOENSKAPPE

**SEPTEMBER, word die Noord-Kaap Arabierperd Streeks
Kampioenskappe op Upington by die Upington Skougronde
aangebied**

**Hekgeld: R10.00 vir Volwassenes
R5.00 vir Kinders
Gratis vir Senior Burgers**

**Vir verdere inligting,
Kontak, Tobia Strauss, 082 788 2442
Epos: str0014@mweb.co.za**