TBCZ
TOURISM BUSINESS COUNCIL of ZIMBABWE

NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY/MARCH



TBCZ Secretariat meets acting ZTA Chief Executive

After the recent moves at Zimbabwe Tourism Authority Organisation TBCZ went to meet the acting Chief Executive, mainly to acquaint with the man at the helm and to discuss a few pertinent issues which are key for the smooth running of the industry.

From ZTA Mr. William Stima and Mrs. Tessa Chikaponya attended the meeting abd TBCZ was represented by Mr Stan Higgins, Mrs. Precious Marimbire and Mr. Paul Matamisa the Chief Executive Officer. It was confirmed that Sanganayi/Hlanganani was set to take place from the 12th to 14th of September in the "City of Kings", at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair grounds, thus dispelling the rumours that this year the event would go to a new venue.

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The New Ministry of Skills Audit and Development

Recently Government held a workshop with Tourism Players, Ministry of Tourism and Hospitality Industry and ZTA with the intention to understand the needs of industry for human capital and attendant issues affecting growth and development of the sector.

It was felt this was a very welcome development which required serious research to come up with tangible results. It was noted that Zimbabwe boasts of a very high level of literacy which is above 90% and ranks as one of the highest on the Continent, however, its skills level stands at a paltry 38%.

This figure stands against development for the country. What this means is that 62% of the population have no skills or have very little f it. Real effective production is in the hands of the 38%.

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Zim Host Program

It was realized that Zim Host is a critical soft skills development programme. It is recommended that TBCZ should try to repossess the programme or just find an alternative. The original Zim Host having been imported from Australia as (Ausie Host) is seen as the panacea to bring back customer care awareness and service of yester years. The beauty with Zim Host is it engaged all levels of persons in business and community from the cleaner to the Manager, from a taxi operator to the coach driver.

All were taught to understand their part/ role in making a tourist happy in the destination. Realistic tangible results for training needs and requirements for growth of the sector, especially to assess the impact and extend of the Brain Drain problem.

The Minister of this newly created Ministry gave his all for the workshop for he attended the meeting right up to the end. If that commitment is met with action in the Ministry then we can anticipate greater things to come from it.

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Twalumba Premier Travel and Tourism Awards for 2024

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They are set to take place on the 11th October 2024 for the Awards of 2023. It has been decided that it is appropriate for the Premier Tourism Awards should be held in the month of Tourism, although this year they are being penciled for October. In the future the target for the presentation will be in September of each year.

AZTA leads in Corporate Responsibility Awareness

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AZTA donates 30 beds cum chairs for the children's Cancer ward in Parirenyatwa Hospital. The matron in charge welcomed the wonderful gesture from the Tourism sector. The benefit goes to accompanying parents of the child patients who up and until now had to sleep on the floor. The bed folds into a chair during the day and stretched into a bed for the night. Congratulations to AZTA for raising the Tourism Flag High into the sky.





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TBCZ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On Thursday 7 March TBCZ leaders assembled in Harare to chart the way forward for the industry by way of choosing leadership for the next two years at least. On a technical constitutional gleach the assembly could not agree to select leaders given the eligibility of the Sub Association "locus standi" regarding subscriptions, however, the meeting agreed to take a break of three months from now up to 6 June to put all matters right, from Constitution to eligibility issues. The AGM was fully subscribed in terms of membership representation. The members are informed that the special E.G.M will be held on 6 June 2024 @ a venue and time yet to be announced.



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Sanganayi/ Hlanganani

Zimbabwe's premier Tourism Show Case is targeted to take place in Bulawayo with Zimbabwe International Trade Fair grounds hosting the event between 12th and 14th September 2024. Since September is the month of Tourism, it would be appropriate for ZTA to host a function in commemoration of the World Tourism Day for the visitors and their hosts.

HAZ sets sights on new Horizons as they Chart a new course with the new strategy. As usual in such matters the elephant in the room is always funding for the grand ideas that the Association produced to succeed. Well done HAZ, good luck for the Future!!!



OBITUARIES



Dr. Karikoga Kaseke

Dr.Karigoka Kaseke one of the longest serving ZTA Chief Executives passed away in the last week of State Assisted Funeral Service and his remains were interred in his rural home- Mhondoro on the day of our Annual General Meeting. We are happy we had industry colleagues who represented the industry. Mr Kaseke is remembered by colleagues for his rhobust unrthodox manner of handling issues and produced results nonetheless.

Our sincere condolences go to his family. May His Soul Rest in Peace.

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Mr. Maxwell Matsilele

On the same note, Precious' brother passed on last week after an open heart surgery. His body was interred in his rural home of Chiredzi over the past weekend. Our condolences go to Precious and all family. May His Soul Rest in Peace.

Mr. Govert Jan Dejong

A well-known and respected member of the industry, "Goof" DeJong recently passed on popularly known as "Goof" or DJ was an operator with Nyathi Travel. DJ is remembered for his softness and dedication to Zimbabwe Tour Operator Association where he served aptly in Executive positions. May His Soul Rest in Eternal Peace.