



the CALABASH

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WORD FROM THE CEO

Dear Calabash Readers

Every day we all face problems and challenges. I believe that Government should take the lead in addressing problems and challenges in the areas for which they are responsible, but they will never succeed in doing so without the support and co-operation of people living and working in the project areas.

Every day we face challenges and it is quite easy to lay the blame for things that we are unhappy about in our environment on other people. How often have you heard “These people litter this place so badly” or “the committee should have done this or that.” or “the government should change it by doing a or b.” Often the people who complain the most are those who contribute the least to the solution of the problem. Government is a favourite target for these people’s complaints and environmental problems are often cited. Some will say “The government should not allow littering. The government should not allow dumping. The government should not allow illegal mining. The government should not allow informal settlements. The government needs to control crime.” People who say things like this are pessimists and are contributors to the very problems which they name.

If land is being degraded through littering, dumping or illegal mining, it is quite impossible for government to control this without buy in from the people who live and work in the area, who are prepared to report and document transgressions and transgressors so that local authorities, the police and the government are able to act effectively against people who infringe the

rights of others and who willfully degrade the environment or disrespect what they clearly must realize are the property of other people or of the state.



CEO: Dinokeng – Fana Jiyane

I believe we are in a new era where co-operation between the people and the government continues to improve when both parties realize they can assist the other and that through creating a “win-win” dialogue, the lives of all those affected can be enhanced and improved. Please be assured that we are committed to the successful future of the Dinokeng Project area. Any suggestions and comments from readers will be given fair consideration in how the Dinokeng project moves forward in the future.

Once more, please keep us informed about forthcoming events so that we can help spread the word and boost the success of your forthcoming activities, festivals and other events. Send your calendars and plans to dinokeng@gauteng.gov.za.

I look forward to seeing you in the spring- have a splendid September.

Best wishes

Fana Jiyane, CEO: Dinokeng

TOURISM PROVIDERS / PRODUCT OWNERS

The New Dinokeng Website is Live at Last

At last the long awaited new Dinokeng website has gone live. The website is very user friendly with the channels indicated by grey blocks at the top of the home page. These tabs are Out and About, Special Interest, Venues, What's Happening, Info Centre, Comments and Search.

Out and About offers information on places to stay, places to eat, things to do, special attractions and scenic drives.

Special Interest provides information on nature, culture, history, adventure, arts& crafts, nurseries and health & wellness.

The Venues tab covers live events, conferences and weddings and functions. The members page provides space for brand using product owners to produce and manage their very own slots, making this a superbly interactive website. Please be patient when after you submit your information- it will need to be checked by the webmaster before it goes live.

Allow three working days before contacting us if your submitted information has not appeared,

What's Happening is about events and news, and also contains a news archive for you to check back on past information if you require it. ,

The Info Centre includes a tourism centre, a document centre and a series of frequently asked questions.

The Comments tab is there for your input.

The Search function is there to help you locate any information on the site which is not obvious to you .

Discover, explore and visit www.dinokeng.co.za. It is a very exciting website with plenty of information for everyone to enjoy, use and benefit from enormously.

TOUR OPERATORS

Python Meets Rhino at Kwalata

Research cameras at Kwalata Game Reserve in Dinokeng recently snapped this chance encounter between an African Rock Python and a White Rhino. Graham Alexander, who is researching "thermoregulation and general ecology of pythons and Puff Adders" at Kwalata, said that although this photo was interesting, he is sure such chance encounters "must happen all the time". Alexander says that a python could not harm a rhino, and although a rhino "could stomp all over a python, if it wanted to, it is very unlikely that it would ever have cause to do so." The major enemy of both of these species is the human being. Lots of animals eat snakes- but it would be a brave creature which would take on an adult python like the one shown in the picture.

Pythons are becoming abundant at Kwalata because "they are not killed on sight as is the case in most of the rest of South Africa" and the increased aardvark

population has also assisted pythons in finding suitable holes in which to shelter underground at night. The habitat is ideal for large snakes and there are plenty of suitable prey species.

Alexander is also studying Puff Adders. "Surprisingly," he says, "this is the first study into their ecology, in spite of them being so widespread, abundant and responsible for more serious snake bite than any other species of snake."

Snouted Cobras, Mozambique Spitting Cobras (Mfezis) and a host of other interesting snake species occur at Kwalata. Snakes are indicators of a healthy ecosystem and of course of tolerant and supportive human beings. Dr. Alexander is trying to determine "what limits African Rock Pythons from occurring much further south, as Kwalata is near the southern boundary of the distribution."



MICE

Absolute Festive Holiday at Dinokeng Big 5 Game Reserve

The Dinokeng Big 5 Game Reserve offers a number of wonderful attractive products that will suit your visit these festive holidays. The DB 5 is made up of several accommodation facilities, from Wedding and Conference venues, catered, and self-catered to camping and caravanning, team building activities and a lot more.

The 18 500 hectare Game Reserve (DB5) is situated in the North-West quadrant of the Gauteng Province of South Africa.

To make your visit more enjoyable these holidays, take a game drive around the reserve and this will sure help you learn more about the fascinating creatures that live at the DB5. Come and see Kudu, Blesbok, Blue Wildebeest, Warthog, Rhino, and different types of Antelope.

Dinokeng (place of rivers) has great potential. Apart from housing the DB5, Dinokeng overlaps to small sections of the Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces and covers the Rust de Winter, Hammanskraal, Roodeplaat and Cullinan areas.

You will also enjoy cultural dances, buying of quality artwork and great cultural foods within the Dinokeng area. If wine is your passion, the first "Wine Safari in the Bush" is now available in the game reserve.

If nature is your thing, The DB5 Game Reserve must be on the cards for the forthcoming December holidays. The DB5 will cater for any mood, from romance, adventure etc.

(Take a look at the DB5 website www.dinokengbig5.com, to find out contact details for bookings purposes.

Contact numbers

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Or contact Alison Odendaal – marketing@dinokengbig5.com



GOVERNMENT

Protected Areas Declaration of the DGR as a Nature Reserve

Dinokeng Projects have contracted Contour Project Managers to draft the required documentation, the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), for the application to declare the DGR as a Nature Reserve under the Protected Areas Act. The application will be submitted to the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) and the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET).

The criteria for the DGR to be declared a Nature Reserve is based on:

- the nature-based recreation and tourism opportunities in the game reserve;
- a need for a long-term protection for the maintenance of the DGR's biological biodiversity and for the provision of environmental goods and services;
- the provision for a sustainable flow of natural products and services to meet the needs of a local community; and
- the objective to enable the continuation of such traditional consumptive uses as are sustainable.

Fana Jiyane, CEO for Dinokeng said, "The declaration of the DGR as a Nature Reserve will restrict development that could be detrimental to the environment but will also ensure that the ecological management of the area is secured for the future."

Mr. Jiyane added that although the Act is a relatively new development in government, both provincial agencies seem optimistic that the declaration will proceed. GDARD and LEDET Policy frameworks required to apply the act have only recently been drafted and the DGR application will potentially be the first of its kind in both provinces!

The Dinokeng Game Reserve Management Association (DGRMA), the association of private land owners managing the reserve, is in the process of finalizing the required paper work for the application in terms of documents required from land owners. The application is due to be submitted in October 2009. A definite date for the award of the status is still unknown. So watch this space!

For any information on the application the DGRMA offices can be contacted on 012 711 0264 or dma@dinokengbig5.com



culture, history, nature

