

ZANZIBAR ASSOCIATION OF TOURISM INVESTORS

ZATI NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2013 | ISSUE 2

Dear members,

Its been tough year for Zanzibar under the spotlight of the world media, but ZATI continues to pave the way for change and play an active role in advocating for improvements required for a sustainable tourism industry.

The key highlights of 2014 include being invited to discuss the challenges that the tourism industry face with the President - twice, the Ministry of Labour agreeing to stop the increase of work permits from \$150 - \$2,000, and receiving funding to conduct a public consultation to review the judiciary system for tourism related crime which will be revealed in January.

ZATI celebrated its 10th anniversary in September. The annual dinner party was supported by the guest of honor, and British High Commissioner, Dianna Melrose - and key sponsors ZANTEL and CRDB bank. The event highlighted ten years of ZATI achievements - and gave recognition awards to those making outstanding commitments to the development of the industry.

It has become evident that as the industry has grown from strength to strength over the years, so has ZATI, which is now considered the voice of tourism in the private sector.

ZATI is striving to ensure that security is the main concern of the Government in 2014 - along with improvements to taxation, water, waste, electricity and also destination marketing. ZATI will continue to fight to make the improvements required to ensure that the tourism industry continues to grow.

ZATIs success depend on you, its members. So please continue to support ZATI activities for making improvements and please remember to renew your membership this month.

Whatever 2014 has in store for you, I'm sure that it promises to be an equally exciting and challenging year for all. But together we can make a difference!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Abdul Samad Said | ZATI Chairman



A WARM WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

ZATI represents nearly 100 investors in Zanzibar.

Support of members is key to ZATI's success, so please welcome:

Coconut Tree Village Beach Resort
Open Water Extreme Adventures
Princess Salme Inn
Seaweed Centre
Coral Rock
Konokono



Join ZATI at info@zati.org

SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS TO PROTECT ZANZIBAR'S ECONOMY

Next month ZATI is publishing a report providing recommendations for improving Zanzibar's legal and policy framework for tourism related crimes - and to ultimately safeguard the growing tourism industry and economy. The report reviews the present judiciary framework and makes recommendations to help the Government improve the legislative system.

The report - Review of legal and policy framework for safety and security in Zanzibar - was created in partnership with Business Environment Strengthening Tanzania.

Tourism contributes significantly to Zanzibar's economy, and with security as one of the key considerations when choosing a holiday destination, the private sector must work alongside the Government to help strengthen the islands legal framework - or risk damaging the tourism industry and ultimately the economy.

Thank you to those of you that took part in the consultative meetings that were held around the island from August 2013 through to December. The paper will be available to the public next month following a press conference.



Police gift rapid response vehicle to ZATI security team

Nungwi/Kendwa security was further boosted when a Police vehicle to be used for patrolling and rapid response was allocated to the Nungwi police station; which had not had a vehicle since its inception in 2007. The Land Rover was presented by newly appointed RPC Hassan during a meeting held last week organised by the security committee. Last year, ZATI Kendwa/Nungwi members led the initiative and financing of a Police barrack converted to accommodation units capable of housing 18 additional policeman at a cost of TS 18.8m. That effort was followed by a significant improvement in security.

MEMBER'S NEWS & VIEWS

KEEPING ZANZIBAR CLEAN

Zanzibar produces 96,000 metric tonnes of waste each year – most of which is illegally dumped in the bush, ocean, or even burned. Poor waste management can lead to environmental pollution, encourage the breeding of disease-vector insects, animal scavengers and rodents, and result in a range of diseases. So waste is a huge concern to ZATI.

Zanrec told ZATI that 85-90% of all the waste produced on the island can be recycle or reused. For over a year, ZANREC has been working with community groups, schools and local entrepreneurs to educate and clean up the local environment.

ZANREC's full waste collection service will be rolled out early next year, enabling hotels to minimise their impact on the environment by recycling up to 90% of their waste.

BETTER BARGAINING POWER FOR SEAWEED FARMERS

Despite seaweed being the magical ingredient in numerous products, including toothpaste, antibiotics, medicinal capsules (due to versatile emulsifying properties) seaweed growers face poor wages as the world market keeps prices of seaweed low.

Bringing seaweed farmers together at The Seaweed Centre in Paje, however, has increased farmers' collective bargaining power and helped improve prices on the international market.

The centre, is a socially responsible initiative that provides over 40 female seaweed farmers with an opportunity to better their lives and benefit their community.

In the process of the centre diversifying, rather than only exporting, local women learnt new skills such as negotiating, planning, costing and distribution and English. The centre aims to further expand; with all dividends and profits going back to the women farmers.

Hoteliers can buy 100% organic products at the Paje Centre.

NEWS IN BRIEF

TOURISM REVENUES ON THE UP | Despite the numbers of direct tourism arrivals dropping this year, resulting from the economic downturn in Europe, the Ministry of Tourism is confident that the future of tourism is bright. They reported that although the number of direct visitors might be down, that fiscal reporting highlights that revenues from the tourism industry are on the up.

THINK-TANK FOR TOURISM | In the true spirit of PPP the Zanzibar Planning Commission has invited ZATI to take part in a 'Tourism Lab' (TLab) has been introduced by to create an environment in which stakeholders from across Government (and outside Government) can discuss problems in the tourism sector, come up with solutions and thereby create a multi-sectorial tourism development programme (MTDP). The MTDP will be incorporated into the 2014/15 budget cycle.

WORK PERMIT FEES | The Ministry of Labour, Economic Empowerment & Co-operatives has officially confirmed that plans to increase work permit fees from \$150 - \$2,000 will not go ahead as planned earlier this year, following ZATI's call for a public consultation and delivery of a position paper that highlighted that although taxation is a necessary part of building a healthy economy, charges must be reasonable and introduced with ample time to implement – and following consultation with the industry.

VAT AMENDMENT CAUSES CONCERN | The VAT amendment that saw the de-registration on many hotels from VAT – along with cause for concern. Emergency advice was given to members at a ZATI meeting and there are plans for further meetings to prepare a position paper that hopes will overturn this decision. ZATI is applying for funds to manage a public consultation that will scrutinise the tax base of the tourism industry – and make recommendations for improvements.

STAR RATINGS FOR HOTELS | The introduction of grading of hotels, currently already in place in other EAC countries is underway in Zanzibar. The grading exercise, initially entails a short questionnaire and inventory, and will identify hotels that fall into the scope of grading. Those that fall out of scope will not be graded. Those that fall into scope will be graded with a star rating from 1 – 5 (5 being the highest), following an extensive questionnaire and inventory. The Ministry believes that grading will create greater transparency and help them to better assess the level of tax for hotels.

CONSERVATION | The Ministry of Tourism reported that although it would be cheaper to rebuild the House of Wonders, it will be repaired. The Ministry is in talks with the Government of Oman, and engineers, architects and geologists surveyed the building three weeks ago. The Stone Town Development Agency is managing the project. Unfortunately, the Municipal continues to use the Old Fort as a waste collection point as a temporary measure, however, it is suspected to be damaging to the wall foundations.

FRESH APPROACH TO SECURITY | ZATI's calls for a tourism court & dedicated rapid response units are underway according to the Ministry of Tourism. A Ministry paper, currently being tabled with the President, also proposes the launch of ten Tourism Information Exchange Bureaus around the island designed to improve rapid responses and communications between private security companies, Police and hoteliers. Funding has been released for the first bureau.



SPECIAL OFFERS FOR MEMBERS

KNIGHT SUPPORT

Knight Support is offering discounted corporate training packages for all ZATI members on Fire Awareness, Fire Warden and First Aid Training. For more information, please contact sales@knightssupport.com or sales@firstairresponder.com.

SAID ATTORNEY & ASSOCIATES

Special discounts are available at Said Attorneys & Associates for ZATI members. Contact Omary Said on 0772 251 999.



ZATI is a non-governmental, non-religious, non-political organisation, that represents the interests of all tourism investors in Zanzibar. It has nearly 100 members representing all areas of the tourism sector and asks members to offer a quality tourism product in their field of expertise and uphold high standards of business ethics.

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BOARD MEMBERS & REGIONAL REPS

BOARD MEMBERS

ZATI is managed by an executive board of eight members, director and assistant; and guided by honorary members from the diplomatic community.

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REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Our regional members represent your needs and interests to the ZATI executive board and to your local Government institutions. Feel free to contact them for advice.

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TBC | Pemba
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