



*the update...*



### **Greetings Friends!**

We hope you had an excellent Easter break. April is often seen as an unproductive month with all the public holidays and it can be a bit unsettling, however we hope that you managed to make the very most of it!

We have been planning for The African Renaissance Conference which will be hosted in May. This annual event will bring together experts and senior representatives to focus primarily on connectivity of the African Continent and the relevance of South Africa's programmes to the continental agenda.

Topics will include the Implementation of the National Development Plan and its impact on public/private partnerships; Drivers of growth for African cities & lessons learnt; Maritime trade in Africa; ITC development on the African continent; Promotion of Tourism into Africa and SA Government's strategy on economic growth through infrastructure development.

For more information visit the website: [www.ebandla.co.za](http://www.ebandla.co.za)

For our Christian readers, we hope your Easter was a blessed one. For our Hindu readers Happy Rama Navami!

Have an excellent month!

*Kamille*

April/May 2013



## VENUE SOURCING 101:

Written by Cornel Smith,  
Associate at thoughtFIRE

For many companies it is vital that expenses are kept at a minimum and often staff reduction are at the order of the day. But, alas, business needs to carry on! Nowadays, some corporates even opt not to have a dedicated PA for their executives or directors or when they do, these personnel are given many a task to do which sometimes includes booking venues and managing the event.

Allow **thoughtFIRE** the opportunity to take these burdens off your shoulders!

In tough times, unfortunately, marketing budgets and entertainment spending is cut first. However, these are really the times when morale needs to be kept up and clients be made aware of your products and special promotions.

Here is the good news. **thoughtFIRE** will:

- Source a venue on your behalf for your conference, team-build or exhibition;
- We will scroll through the mass of venue quotes, menus and muddle and give you a concise and easy-to-understand **thoughtFIRE** enquiry;
- Plus – we will handle all the venue logistics, prepare an event order and ensure the event is running perfectly!

Best of all - this will not cost your company any additional money. Let me explain.

Because **thoughtFIRE** is a preferred supplier to most Hotel groups, Lodges, Boutique Hotels,

B&Bs and accredited with the relevant industry associations, the venue we confirm on our clients behalf pay us a commission. This commission is for putting together the event order, ensuring payments are made on time and the general management of the booking. In most cases, because of our personal relationships with venues, we are also in a position to negotiate on rates should the need arise. Payments of commissions are hundred percent legitimate and honest. We are not allowed to add on to the rate quoted by a venue and likewise a venue is not allowed to add on commission because you decide to make use of our services! The rate quoted is the rate provided by the venue.

Should you require to pay the venue directly, you are welcome to do so. No money is exchanged between the client and **thoughtFIRE** at all.

Sounds too good to be true? Give us a call with the details of your event on hand, and we will be happy to manage your booking for you, allowing you to save time and money and do the more important things!

## FEATURED UPCOMING EVENTS:

SANPAD RCI Module 4	7th - 12th April, Durban
SANTRUST Nurse Conference	7th - 12th April, Durban
Auditor General Workshop	12th April, Durban
DDP Breakfast	23rd April, Durban
SANPAD WSP Workshop	24th - 27th April, Durban
KZNMCC Health Partners	25th April, Durban
SAMA CPD Workshop	28th April, Durban
DDP Forum	30th April, Durban
FNB KZN Top Business Media Breakfast	8th May, Durban
Hatch/Goba Cocktail Party	9th May, Durban
IDC Indaba Cocktail Party	10th May, Durban
ABASA Annual Dinner	14th May, Durban
IDC Workshop	14th May, Durban
SANPAD Policy Brief	15th - 17th May, Durban
SAMA AGM	18th May, Durban
SAICA Road Show	22nd May, Durban
DDP Book Launch	23rd May, Durban
African Renaissance Conference	23rd - 24th May, Durban
KZNMCC AGM	24th - 26th May, Durban
Pfizer Breakfast	23rd May, Durban
SAICA AGM	27th - 28th May, Durban
IRBA Workshop	30th - 31st May, Durban



## A TOUCH OF CLASS...

*Looking east from Mkuze two very pronounced features rise out of the Ubombo range, on the left Gaza and on the right Tshaneni. At irregular intervals over the years, strange lights and flickering fires are seen among the fissures and cliffs of the summit. Weird noises and strange calls are also heard...*

Get away from the hustle and bustle of the city, at the foot of the legendary Ghost Mountain in Mkuze, Northern KwaZulu Natal lies the privately owned 4 Star Ghost Mountain Inn - a perfect setting to experience the allure of Africa in stylish comfort. This intimate and beautiful hotel is the ideal location from which to explore the array of wildlife and coastal reserves in Maputaland and the Elephant Coast. Nature enthusiasts will appreciate the abundance of wildlife and the scenic splendours of this rich and diverse region during game drives, guided walks, cultural excursions and boat cruises in the company of knowledgeable rangers.

Conference capacity at the hotel is up to 160 delegates offers 50 guest rooms, including a large Suite, 7 Garden Rooms, 1 Disabled Room, 19 Superior Rooms and 22 Standard Rooms. It is perfect for a getaway conference and the area is packed with activities for teambuilding options.

To book an unforgettable getaway at **Ghost Mountain Inn**, please contact **thoughtFIRE** on (031) 569 5988.



**To win a 2 night stay for 2 people at Ghost Mountain Inn, Dinner and Boat Cruise valued at R4500.00 all you have to do is like us on facebook!**  
**(Click Here to be directed to our facebook page)**

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