

Mattanu Private Game Reserve Winner of Lilizela Awards Northern Cape



Photo 1.

On Monday, 2 September, the Northern Cape Provincial government honoured the six provincial finalists in the inaugural Lilizela Tourism Awards during an awards ceremony at the Flamingo Casino in Kimberley. Lilizela meaning praise and jubilation. The awards ceremony was launched by South African Tourism and also the start of National Tourism month, the first of its kind to acknowledge and commend tourism businesses that has service excellence and exceptional quality standards.

According to Mr. John Block, MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, the Lilizela Tourism Awards helps to celebrate global excellence in tourism focusing on service excellence, emerging tourism entrepreneurship and sustainable tourism development.

This is not the first time Mattanu Private Game Reserve outside Kimberley is rewarded. They have a long list of awards including the Lilizela award for

the winner of the best accommodation service provider in Northern Cape. On 27 September they will attend the final, with other winners from all provinces in South Africa. The red carpet event will be held in Hartbeest in the North West Province. Mattanu also received the PMR Diamond Arrow Award for the best Game Lodge in the Northern Cape - this was award number nine.

Mattanu means 'gift from above'. The Kriek-family want to share Gods creation with everybody who visits Mattanu. It all started in 1991 when the owner, Dr J.C Kriek originally from Zimbabwe, and also a pioneer for breeding of endangered antelope in South-Africa, imported 95 endangered Roan antelope and 65 rare Sable antelope. This was one of the most successful Game capturing and importation operations ever. Dr Kriek is a veterinarian and commercial helicopter pilot. His son Johann Kriek is also a commercial helicopter pilot who works side by side with his father. Mattanu's helicopter is often used in the very popular Bushveld dinner fly-ins, game viewing and the transportation of quest. The farm is managed and marketed by Jacques Kriek, the younger son. Jacques has a degree in tourism management and marketing. The Kriek family make it their personal responsibility to take care of their visitors. This is the reason why guests can be assured of great service and friendly Northern Cape hospitality.

Mrs Daleen Kriek who is married to Dr. Kriek, is responsible for the catering and is well known for her distinct flavour of South African dishes and very creative with the preparation of the devine meals at Mattanu. It is more than a meal, it is an experience.

To complete the family business, a natural state of the art, health and fitness spa is planned. Heleen Kriek, the youngest daughter, has a degree in beauty therapy and will be in charge of the planned spa.

Perhaps it is the hard work, love and dedication of the Kriek family. Maybe it is the personal hands on approach of how things are done at Mattanu. One thing is certain: The family business is the key to the Kriek's family success and the reason for all the awards so far and those which are still on its way. (Suzette Kriel)

PHOTO 1: Me. Sharon Lewis (CEO NCTA), Me. Tembi Kunene (Chief Quality Assurance Officer), Mr. John Block (MEC), Mayor Agnes Ntlangula, Me. Gail Parker (Member of Parlement), Mr Karel Phentela (Chairperson NCTA) (Picture Suzette Kriel)

PHOTO 2: Five of the six finalists. (Picture Suzette Kriel)

PHOTO 3: Mr. John Block, (MEC Finance, Economical Development and Tourism), Jacques Kriek from Mattanu and winner, Me. Agnes Ntlangula (Executive Mayor Sol Plaatje Munisipality) (Picture Suzette Kriel)



Photo 2.



Photo 3.

Leerders van Hoërskool Diamantveld wen 'n Nasionale Skool Toerisme toekenning



Pieter Hattingh en Stephanie Potgieter is Gr 11-leerders van Hoërskool Diamantveld in Kimberley. Groot was die opgewondenheid toe hulle verlede week aangekondig is as wenners van die Nasionale Skool Toerisme Toekenning.

Pieter en Stephanie het leerders van al die ander provinsies uitgestop met 'n South-African Research projek. Dit handel oor die Naba vrug wat baie soos 'n sampioen of truffle is. Dit kom alleenlik in die Kalahari voor, maar net 'n sekere tyd van die jaar en ook net as dit goed gereën het. Hulle gaan gedurende November Suid-Afrika trots in Frankryk verteenwoordig. Monaco is ook op hulle lys van plekke wat besoek gaan word.

Mnr. John Block het hulle bemoedig met die volgende waar woorde: "Do everything better not because you have to but because you want to".

FOTO: Mnr. John Block (middel) saam met Pieter Hattingh (links) en Stephanie Potgieter (regs). Hulle is die wenners vir die Nasionale Skool Toerisme Toekenning. (Foto Suzette Kriel)

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