



Vuk' Africa Tours and Training
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SANIBONANI, FRIENDS AND PARTNERS!

Greetings from our beautiful Valley! Vuk' Africa Tours and Training is a socially aware, people-empowering, cultural-tourism organization, set up to create a sustainable income stream for local nonprofit organisations.

In August, Vuk' Africa welcomed four new candidates from Tourism World Academy who are now on the VA team. They are Nomusa Dube (tour coordinator), Balungile Majola (administration and finance officer), Sbonelo Msomi (tour guide and scout), and Msizi Cele (curio shop manager).



New VA candidates (left to right): Sbonelo Msomi, Nomusa Dube, Balungile Majola, and Msizi Cele.

REWARDS OF SELF-ANALYSIS

For the past few months, we've managed to strengthen our relationship with stakeholders by evaluating the way we work with them. Such a review has helped us to identify and deal with challenges. This self-analysis is bound to help us provide the best possible service to those who tour with Vuk' Africa.

NEW ADVENTURE TOUR DESTINATIONS

We're happy to announce that we are busy identifying and developing new adventure tour destinations, such as those in Vuk' Africa's "Holidays Package," which we designed for younger, local community residents — especially those living at higher altitudes whose standard of living is high but who don't usually have exposure to lower-altitude activities and attractions, such as: ice skating, bungee jumping, canoeing, horseback riding, and bicycle excursions. This new tourism opportunity enables locals to take part in and enjoy adventures that provide a memorable holiday experience at reasonable prices.

OUR BRAND-NEW CURIO SHOP

As a result of many challenges that Vuk' Africa has endured over the years while helping locals organise their sales stalls so they could do well at selling their beautiful, handmade beadwork during VA tours, we've opened our own curio shop.



VA buys beads from local suppliers and displays lovely items during its tours; most of our tourists like them and are quick to buy these keepsakes. VA gives back to its community by buying handcrafted beadwork items from local artisans, then selling them to interested tourists. The curio shop is on our premises; please stop by!

VA SEEKS EUROPEAN UNION FUNDING

Partnering with The Ventures Group — a major adventure tourism company in South Africa — Vuk’ Africa Tours recently applied for funds through the multimillion Rand Gijima KZN Local Economic Development Programme, co-funded by the European Union; the programme has been instrumental in establishing and promoting the local tourism industry. Designed to support projects that assist disadvantaged people who strive to improve their lives economically, access is provided to an ambitious European Union fund, set up specifically for this purpose. One of the fund’s goals is to create a better environment for economic growth by developing the capacity and skills base of local municipalities to enable the creation of a healthy climate to cultivate and sustain local economic development. We are obviously excited about the prospects of what we might be able to do in our community if VA qualifies for funding. Please stay tuned.

WINNER OF THE DURBAN MAYORAL AWARD

Vuk’ Africa Tours is pleased to announce that it has won one of the Mayoral Awards offered by Mayor James Nxumalo of eThekweni Municipality in Durban. Among 800 award applicants, Vuk’ Africa Tours was selected as one of the awards winners on 7 December. We look forward to putting to good use this cherished award, including R10 000, a laptop and printer, and a stunning trophy.

A FRIEND’S FOND FAREWELL



Vuk’ Africa bids a sad but appreciative “Good-bye” to General Manager Nosipho Ntuli who, since 2009, has been continually committed to VA’s growth and ongoing efforts to better develop our community.

We cannot thank Nosipho adequately for her tireless endeavours, commitment, discipline, and focus on healthy work ethics.

All of us at Vuk’ Africa Tours and Training wish Nosipho all the very best in her future ventures.

VA MAKES THE MOVE

To primarily lower rental costs, Vuk' Africa has relocated its offices to the Light Providers property. VA's new shared venue is working pretty well, for which we're all quite pleased; it's more convenient for our employees and stakeholders to run our tours.

Our new address is 080521 Manqoba Drive, KwaNyuswa, Botha's Hill, 3660. Please call to make an appointment to "tour" our new office.

TOURIST TURNED VOLUNTEER



Antonia Sudkaemper, once a VA tourist, returned to assist VA to research the Valley of 1000 Hills (KwaNyuswa) and its culture.

For one week this November, Vuk' Africa Tours hosted Antonia Sudkaemper, who visited us from the University of Groningen, Netherlands. It was an enjoyable experience for all of us; we shared good times working with such an enthusiastic, loving young woman.

Antonia first grew attached to the Vuk' vision this September on her first Vuk' Africa tour. Pleased with how much she liked what she saw on her tour, she returned to serve with us as a volunteer guide and researcher; we hope that Antonia will return soon.

Peace to you,

Your friends at Vuk' Africa Tours

Not merely a tour operator, Vuk' Africa is a cultural tourism organisation that seeks to empower, develop, and showcase developing communities in South Africa.