

CSF Resort to host Expedition Africa 2017

Cape St Francis Resort will be the host and prize-giving venue for Expedition Africa Baviaans 2017, a 500km non-stop international adventure race over 7 days next May.

The route for this internationally acclaimed race is always kept secret until race day and huge numbers of racing teams are expected to participate and

visit Eastern Cape areas, including Kouga.

Race organisers, Stephan and Heidi Muller, of Kinetic Events, are excited that their 7th consecutive race will include true wilderness areas, such as the Baviaans and the unspoiled beauty of the Kouga region. The event is part of the World Series Adventure Race and the Mullers say they were excited

the Kouga Local Tourism Organisation invited them to bring the event to the area. Teams of four navigate in unknown territory through the Baviaans, Kouga, the Klein Karoo and Tsitsikamma, with only a map and compass. Teams, including some international elite teams, will participate in paddling, cycling, hiking, abseiling and some rope work between checkpoints.

Teams are equipped with GPS trackers, which enable viewers around the world to follow and support the event live 24/7 during the race. The winners receive entry into the World Championships in the US in August 2017.

Cape St Francis Resort is sponsoring the accommodation and owner, Fasil Malherbe, has welcomed the event to the area. Teams, organisers and media crews will stay at the Resort.

The Mullers say the Resort offers top

class accommodation for the teams, plus facilities, such as airport transfers, spa treatments, shuttle services to local shops and an amazing restaurant and bar.

Sarah Baartman District Municipality, the Kouga Municipality, Kouga Local Tourism Organisation and Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency are in full support of the event. The Mullers will spend several weeks in Kouga and surrounding areas to ensure Expedition Africa 2017 will be a world-class and highly successful adventure. They have already started route scouting adventures with media crews.

This annual event is one of 11 around the world and part of the Adventure Racing World Series (www.adventureraceseries.com)

(Note this article has been slightly edited and updated since publication of the print edition on 17 October for clarity purposes - Editor)



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St Francis Bay side-lined in monies allocated for beach rehabilitation

St Francis Bay beachfront property owners are upset that Jeffreys Bay will get money from Kouga Municipality for beach enhancements, but St Francis Bay will not.

More than R12-million will be spent on upgrading the Jeffreys Bay beachfront, including the town's main beach, according to a press release from the new Executive Mayor, Edza van Lingen. The money has been given to Kouga Municipality for "coastal rehabilitation and clean-ups", she said. A portion of the funding will be used to upgrade facilities at Jeffreys Bay's Dolphin Beach, including the construction of a new life guard tower, plus on constructing a boardwalk and ablation facilities at Pellicus Beach.

But St Francis Bay, which urgently needs to have its badly eroded beachfront repaired and to protect mansions falling into the sea, is unlikely to get any of this money. The press release makes no mention of St Francis Bay's beach.

And St Francis Bay beachfront owners

and those who live elsewhere in the town, who donated money from their own pockets for repairs of the beach are understandably upset.

They say Jeffreys Bay residents who have paid no money are getting their beaches enhanced by the municipality, while St Francis Bay beaches are apparently getting nothing from that source and beach repairs will be done with residents' money.

Asked to comment, Wayne Furphy of the St Francis Bay Property Owners Association said the Working for Coast funds of R12.3m was decided on when the previous government of the Kouga municipality (the ANC) was in power. The funding is used by government to create employment, he said, "so the projects are focused on beach clean-up, and amenities improvement and repair eg boardwalk construction and repair, upgrading ablations, etc."

Furphy added that coastal clean-ups incorporate all beaches in the Kouga region, including St Francis. He further said the specific amenities improvement projects were agreed between DEDEAT and the previous municipal government at the time.

Furphy said he understood that an application for funding has been submitted (post-election) by the St Francis Ward Councillor for the upgrade of the beach amenities at St Francis Main Beach and this is under consideration. "These funds cannot be used for hiring contractors to re-habilitate our eroded beaches and maintain our revetments," Furphy said.

Political analysts, however, told St Francis Chronicle they believe it is at the municipal government's discretion where the money should be spent - that though DEAT might say how the money is spent it does not necessarily stipulate where exactly the money must be spent, as long as it is in Kouga.

Beachfront property owners are not appeased, pointing out that the money has been allocated for "coastal rehabilitation" and St Francis Bay's beach is a prime candidate.

Some residents also point out that ablation facilities at Anne Avenue were washed away by the sea several years ago and money should be allocated for new ablation facilities for the many visitors to this beach over season.

Emergency Numbers

Try Our Word Puzzle

Apologies for greenies that produced wrong solutions last month!
See how many words you can make from the letters. No words to be less than four letters. Every word has to contain the middle, bold letter. The goal is to also find the nine-letter words. No plural nouns, capital letters, slang, or foreign language words (unless accepted in the Oxford English dictionary). This month's great 52 words excellent 40 words good 40 words fair.
Note: Words ending in 's' like 'pass' have been allowed. The correct solution is on p12

P	R	E
E	D	E
C	T	A

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Editorial, Photography, Layout & Design: Bev Mortimer (083 609 5835; 042 294 1964); Marcel Mortimer (083 609 5842).

Advertising: Bev Mortimer (083 609 5835; 042 294 1964).

News/Advertisement physical drop-off point: Calibre Security, St Francis Bay Village Centre.

Material Deadlines: 20th of every month. Payment Advert Space Bookings: 21st of every month.

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