

NEPAD Regional Media Dialogue

Venue Details

The Vaal River

The Vaal River is one of South Africa's most popular and scenic tourist destinations, offering guests a uniquely South African excursion just an hour away from Johannesburg. The Vaal River is the largest tributary of the Orange River in South Africa. The river has its source in the Drakensberg Mountains in Mpumalanga, east of Johannesburg and about 30 km north of Clarens in the Free State at a source known as the Ash River. Water is drawn from the Vaal to meet the industrial needs of the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Area and a large part of the Free State Province. Water drawn from the Vaal supports 12 million consumers in Gauteng and surrounding areas.

The Riviera on Vaal

The Riviera on Vaal is one of the most prestigious boutique hotels in South Africa. The Riviera offers guests 5 star accommodation, service excellence, conferencing and banqueting facilities and a magnificent golf course, all set in the idyllic and restful environment of the majestic Vaal River. As guests, all conference attendees and participants will be free to exploit all the hotel's superb facilities, though some will come at an additional price payable by the individual guest.

The Riviera on Vaal Country Club is the Riviera's very own world class Golf Course. The secluded and tranquil 18 hole golf course offers players a chance to escape the hustle and bustle of daily life and gently enjoy the peaceful surroundings and enjoy either the 72 par 18 hole course or the 9 hole pitch and putt course situated next to the 18th hole. The Riviera on Vaal Country Club dates back to 1937 when it was originally built as the Vereeniging Golf Course and had previously been the home of a local millionaire.

The Riviera on Vaal hotel also offers snooker, tennis, squash and darts to ensure that there is never a moment of boredom during your stay. Alternatively, should you wish to relax and escape, there is ample space and serenity to allow for you to sit and watch the river go lazily by, or listen to the sounds of local fauna, all in the comfort of a 5 star boutique hotel with the very best service at your beck and call at all times. A full price list for additional activities is available upon request. Internet access and other office facilities are available at additional expense.

The event will have interpreters for participants who are French speaking and all documentation will be available in English and French. Documentation, including conference agenda, concept notes, and all other relevant documents will be made available to all participants.

The hotel itself, situated just 45 minutes from Johannesburg, is a picture of luxury and serenity. It 89 rooms, over 5 floors provide every guest with a perfect view of the Vaal River and are luxuriously appointed. The hotel gardens are manicured and landscaped to perfection, providing wonderful views from all the rooms and a relaxing backdrop for meals and afternoon drinks.

Vaal Climate Conditions

Gauteng is said to offer one of the world's best climates: summer days are warm and wind free and winter days are crisp and clear. The Vaal River is a popular holiday destination due to its attractively warm summer days and temperate climate throughout the year. In February visitors can expect to be hot but without the stifling humidity of other regions of South Africa. Visitors should dress for warm sunshine

during the day with preparation for rain in the afternoons and evenings. Nights are mostly cool so a light sweater or jacket may be necessary.

Travelling to South Africa

South Africa is an attractive and enjoyable tourist destination. Visitors however, are encouraged to ensure that they abide by all regulations governing entry to the Republic of South Africa. It is vital that all visitors coming from countries with risk of Yellow Fever infection have been vaccinated before trying to travel to South Africa, ensure you travel with your Yellow Fever vaccination card when entering South Africa. Visa requirements vary from country to country, in most cases a Visa is not necessary; however it is advisable to check the specific visa requirements for yourself well in advance to your trip. The Vaal River area is not a malaria area and no malaria vaccinations will be necessary. South Africa's banking and currency exchange facilities are among the best in the world. Visitors will be able to convert foreign currency at the airport, in most bank branches and the Riviera on Vaal Hotel itself also has foreign exchange facilities. The South African Rand (ZAR) currently trades with the dollar at about R11 to US\$1.

Travel Arrangements

NEPAD will be organizing transport from OR Tambo International Airport to the Riviera on Vaal on the 18th of February 2009. There will be a NEPAD representative present at the Airport to handle all queries and direct attendees to the shuttle service. There will be three transports leaving for the venue during the day; a morning shuttle, an early afternoon shuttle and an evening one. Attendees are requested to liaise with NEPAD prior to arrival with regard to arrival times and terminals. Once arrived at the airport, attendees should make themselves known to the NEPAD officials present and they will be assigned to the next available shuttle.

In order to make travel arrangements and inform NEPAD of arrival times please liaise directly with:

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