



Dear ICUMSA Colleague

Sawubona (Hello in Zulu)

It is with great anticipation that the South African National Committee waits to welcome you to the 31st Session to be held in South Africa from the 26th to the 28th August 2018. The meeting will be hosted at the Protea Hotel Kruger Gate, situated on the Sabi River and adjacent to the Kruger National Park (<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/mqpkg-protea-hotel-kruger-gate>). Part of the hotel grounds are within the Kruger Park and wildlife wander through these grounds. It is planned to hold



the conference dinner in a boma, under the African stars, where the night air is filled with the accompanying sounds of the wild animals.

The hotel offer both delegates and accompanying persons a spa, swimming pool, gym and the possibility of day tours into the Kruger National Park or surrounding Mpumalanga Province. The world-renowned Kruger National Park offers a wildlife experience that ranks amongst the best in Africa and consists of

nearly two million hectares of natural diversified bush. It is home to the Big 5 (lion, buffalo, elephant, rhino and leopard), cheetah, wild dog, a wide range of buck and more than 477 species of birds from the large raptors to the world's smallest bird (the bronze mannikin). The Mpumalanga Province has a rich history and natural beauty, boasting attractions such as Three Rondavels, Gods Window, Mac-Mac Falls, Bourke's Luck Potholes and, for the more adventurous, 4x4 trails and mountain hiking

For those who may want to consider including a holiday, either before or after the meeting, the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport offers direct links to Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town, Livingstone (Victoria Falls, Zambia) and Vilanculos (Mozambique).



Cape Town



Durban



Vilenculos



Victoria Falls

Cape Town offers the tourist the world-famous Table Mountain and associated Nature Reserve, Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens with the unique fynbos flora, Robben Island, the Two Oceans Aquarium and the Constantia Wine Route. The main draw-cards to **Durban** are the year-round ability to swim in the Indian Ocean, authentic Indian curries and the close proximity to the Drakensburg mountains. It is also home to the Sugar Milling Research Institute and the majority of members of the SA National Committee. **Victoria Falls** in the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park (*the Smoke that Thunders*) is one of the world's natural wonders that straddles both Zambia and Zimbabwe. Whilst it is neither the highest nor the widest waterfall in the world, Victoria Falls is classified as the largest, based on its combined width of 1,708 metres and height of 108 metres. Not to be missed is a sunset cruise on the mighty Zambesi river. Finally, for those who may want to relax under a tropical sun and swim in the Indian Ocean, **Vilenculos** offers pristine beaches and dazzling views to take your breath away. The beautiful bay has calm and shallow waters which are ideal for water sports and fun in the sun. Just beyond the bay is the magnificent Bazaruto Archipelago, a chain of islands in a marine national park.

For those ICUMSA members who may be interested in attending or presenting at the 2018 Conference of the South African Sugar Technologists Association (SASTA), it will be held in Durban at the International Conference Centre from the 14th to 16th August 2018. More information will be found at www.sasta.co.za once the 2017 conference has been held. SASTA also offers International Visitors Grants.

The National Committee look forward to welcoming you

Till then,

Sala kahle (stay well in Zulu)

Stephen Walford

SA National Chairperson.