



MSASA BUSINESS FEATURE

Cresta Churchill refurbishment begins

CRESTA Hotels and the Catering Industry Pension Fund have started work on a major refurbishment of Bulawayo's Cresta Churchill Hotel, which will result in the renovation of all bathrooms and a new look for the suites and bedrooms.

Cresta Group operations executive Bill Bruce said work had started in January and the first wing would be completed by April, in time for one of the busiest seasons of the year for all Bulawayo hotels: the build-up to and running of the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair period.

"The objective is to upgrade the accommodation facilities in the hotel and maintain the high standards of operation for which the hotel has been known for more than 40 years," he said.

Cresta Churchill was opened in 1974 and is situated on the main road leading from Bulawayo the Matobo Hills, a World Heritage Site and home of wildlife, historic sites and a range of natural attractions that have broad appeal to visitors from all over the world.



Cresta Jameson

The hotel is based in a suburban setting, with easy access to the commercial and industrial areas, as well as to residential suburbs and various tourist attractions.

It is aimed at providing accommodation to business and leisure travellers and is also a major conference and banqueting venue, as well as host

of various social and networking facilities and activities.

Cresta Hotels has undertaken renovation, development or refurbishment work at all its Zimbabwean hotels during the past few years, including major upgrades at Cresta Lodge in Harare and Cresta Sprayview in Victoria Falls, as well as a range of development projects and repositioning work at Cresta Oasis Hotel and Apartments and Cresta Jameson, both in Harare.

"We do this work in order to ensure that travellers and other guests have access to the best possible facilities and amenities when they make use of our five hotels across Zimbabwe, and we have been pleased with response from guests to work already completed at the other hotels," said Bruce.

"When work has been completed at Cresta Churchill, we will present to guests a boutique-style hotel that will serve all guests well and will be a venue of which the City of Kings can be proud."



Cresta Churchill Hotel

Host to Host cements a strategic alliance between Stanbic Bank, Unki Mines



STANBIC Bank successfully launched an innovative financial solution called "Host to Host" for corporate clients in Zimbabwe. This demonstrates Stanbic's promise as a customer centric bank committed to "fit for purpose" solutions to meet the specific needs of clients.

Host to Host is an automated two way data transfer solution which enables the customer to migrate 100 percent of their transactions from manual to electronic capture.

The system works in such a way that once the client accesses their Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), they will start transmitting payment instructions to the bank which will be processed immediately. Thereafter, the client is able to get periodic updates into their ERP on transactional activity on their accounts.

Unki Mine (Pvt) Ltd has taken the product on board driven by the desire to reduce costs as well as achieving a reduction in the lengthy manual processes related to making payments using the RTGS system. The Bank then used its experience in running a similar system for Unki's parent company (Anglo American Platinum Limited of South Africa) to initiate and set up the project. The Stanbic Transactional Products and Services (TPS)

team together with support from Standard Bank IT experts were instrumental to the scoping and implementation stages. Key requisites for the project were the need for clear project plan, dedicated resources from the bank and Unki and updated supplier data from Unki.

The Unki Mines chief financial officer, Colin Chibafa, supported the project as it has translated to savings in transaction costs and resulted in a reduction in fraud risk.

Speaking at the Go Live, Mbonjeni Dhlamini head of transactional, product and services said "Host to Host is a key strategic channel for our top tier clients and we are extremely delighted that Unki has led the way by being the first corporate client to come on board. Congratulations Unki! We are confident that going forward Unki will enjoy enhanced efficiencies as they make their payments leveraging on Host to Host capabilities."

The director corporate and investment banking Weston Makwara stated that the bank was extremely excited about Host to Host and hoped that the use of the system while exclusive to top tier corporates, would invite more of the same to enjoy the benefits of this automated electronic payments system.

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