

LEISURE LODGE BEACH AND GOLF RESORT

Official opening of Kileleni Conference Centre and Ruby Anniversary

Beach • Golf • Conference



THE BUSTANI CLUB

Forty years later Celebrating its Ruby Anniversary

In 1970 Diani Beach was an unknown destination. It was a forest full of animals including lions, leopards, buffalo, antelope and a magnificent, unspoilt long white sandy beach extending for kilometers and kilometers and its only human inhabitants were fishermen, the few houses strewn along the beach front and three small hotels, namely Jadini, Two Fishes and Trade Winds.

One of the beach houses belonged to the Benzimra family from Nairobi and in 1971 they toyed with the idea of developing this property for tourism which in those days was only for the

European/American elite who could afford to fly to Kenya and enjoy a holiday.

Leisure Lodge was thus conceived and born opening its doors in 1972 with the Late Kenyan

President H.E. Jomo Kenyatta officially launching the hotel. A plaque commemorating this event is at the entrance foyer of the hotel.

Worldwide celebrities and dignitaries came to stay at Leisure, to name a few such as famous American film star, William Holden, world famous author Bernhard Grzimek, several European and German celebrities, heads of state such as the late President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire and Kenya's former President Daniel arap Moi. The list is long. One such visitor was an advocate from Germany, Dr. Wilhelm Meister who came in 1973 and for him this was love at first sight. Together with his colleagues he decided to buy shares in the lodge and expand it substantially.

Dr. Meister was a man of great vision and was determined to create the most magnificent tourist resort on the Kenyan coast.

By 1980, tourism was booming. The hotel started to expand with the construction of 16 villas. But Dr. Meister's vision did not end here as he wanted to put up a golf course. So in 1991, famous golf player



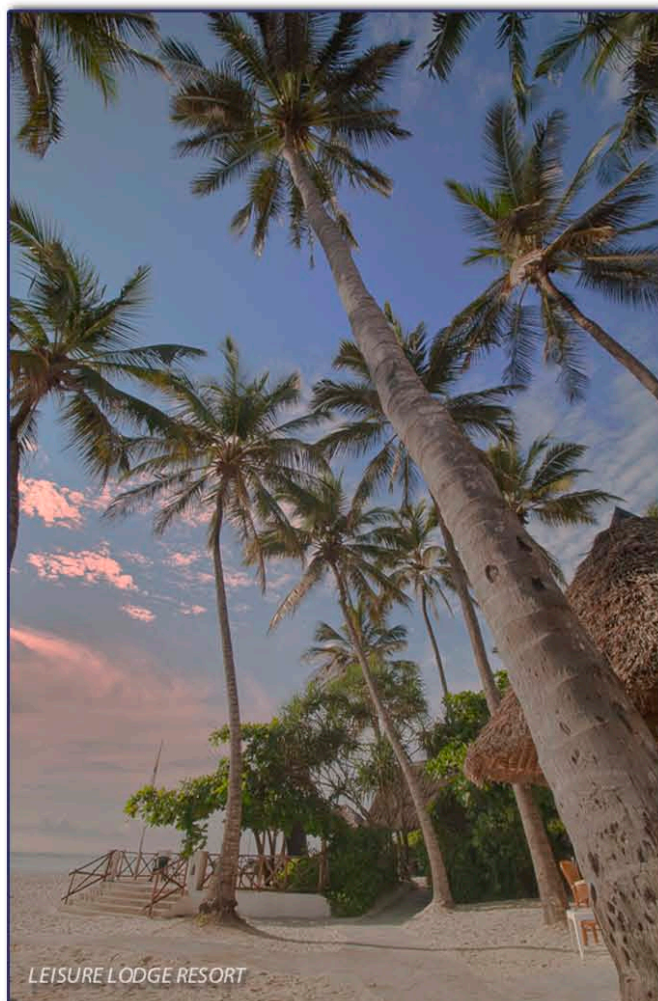
A section of Kileleni Conference Centre. Function setting



A workshop in session at the state-of-the-art Kileleni Conference Centre.



Continued on next page



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