



IT'S

PARADISE

Ugu South Coast Tourism (Pty) Ltd

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For immediate release

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Thank you to the Scottburgh Community. From sani2c

Dear Scottburgh Community

Huge congratulations to all of you who help and were involved with KAP sani2c 2016. Another sani2c is behind us. It will go down in my book as the best to date. Our team could not be happier with how the first KAP sani2c unfolded. We had many challenges thrown at us in 2016 and looking back now we would not change a thing. These hurdles only inspired us to work harder and positively and I am seriously proud of our communities and the way they rallied around various challenges. From the floating bridge escaping out of the lagoon. (It would have still been on route to Mozambique had it not been for the Scottburgh Community who rallied together and retrieved it way past backline under dangerous conditions) This was just one of many challenges we all faced at the KAP sani2c 2016.

Every so often – whether admiring the approaching storm clouds and lightening over the peaks of the Drakensberg from the stage at the Adventure registration; or breathing in the distinctive muddy aromas as we accessed conditions in the Umkomaas at 3am in the morning before the Trail event prepared for the Umko Drop; or feeling the misty spray of the Indian Ocean on my cheeks before sunrise whilst standing on the beach amongst a pile of tangled bridge and planning how to get it all back in the lagoon in under 2 days – These experiences that made me realise again how fortunate I am to be part of the community that have, over the past 12 years, worked together to create a mountain bike stage race that is by far the world's biggest event of its kind. It is not just magnificent KwaZulu-Natal and its natural bounty and boundless diversity that distinguish KAP sani2c. It is the energy and passion of the everyday normal people involved.

It is the eager sani2c community of landowners, farmers, local villagers and their families and friends who not only give us access to their land and time, but also demonstrate a special kind of hospitality and old world charm seldom experienced these days. They are the ones who accommodate, feed and water all the riders between Glencairn and Scottburgh beach. They are the ones who encourage riders with country-folk humour and make them laugh, regardless of how badly their legs are



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burning. They are the special people riders would have met during sani2c. They are ones all riders are telling friends and family about now the event is over for another year.

For sure, KAP sani2c trails and countryside are splendid, but more so are sani2c people: from the many unsung heroes who work on sections of the 267 km course to the CEO of KAP, Gary Chaplin who spent time at the event gaining further insight into our sani2c.

It is the combination of these entities that make the event unforgettable and keeps many riders coming back year after year.

I extend my appreciation and gratitude to everyone in the Scottburgh community, the landowners and children along the route and in the race villages who have worked extremely hard for their worthy organisations. Without them and their passion for the event, sani2c would not be what it is to so many. With their enthusiasm, commitment and hard work, the race continues to inspire and benefit many people from both within their communities and beyond. With their support, we are able to continually upgrade the event and the route, which, in turn, enables us to further assist communities in the area.

Regarding KAP Industrial Holdings Limited, I am extremely excited by their enthusiasm and commitment to our event. Never in the history of sani has a partner excited me more and I am confident that we are at the beginning of a long mutually beneficial relationship.

Of course, ultimately, KAP sani2c is all about the riding. Every year our passionate route teams put in hours of back breaking labour preparing the trails but ultimately it is the weather that has the final say. Thanks firstly to the BIG Man upstairs but also to all the landowners who so willing help when needed.

We will never lose sight of this fact and will continue to work hard to innovate and incorporate new features to keep the event fresh and exciting for riders, sponsors and our valued sani2c communities.

Thank you again, one and all, for your dedication and commitment in allowing the KAPsani2c 2016 to be the best to date.

Yours sincerely





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UGU South Coast Tourism event coordinator Vanessa Gounden says “What an honour it is to have events of this nature in our area. It is a fantastic internationally acclaimed event & we cannot wait to have the riders back year after year”

Ends

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Photo: Supplied

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