Fifth Consular Ball shines for Charity once again

CAPE TOWN Consular CORPS

The glittering event took place at the Kelvin Grove Ballroom on 22 October and raised R700 000, bringing the total amount raised by the Cape Town Consular Corps for local charities since the inception of the Ball to R2.5 million.



The black-tie affair was attended by diplomats and honorary consuls representing a record-breaking **25 countries** as well as their friends and business associates. The mayor's office, Independent Newspapers and the local business community also supported the annual event which is designed to let the 280 guests experience the best Cape Town has to offer.



"This year we celebrated our fifth Ball by having fun!" said Isabel Verwey, wife of the Deputy Dean of the Corps and organiser of the event. "We had three amazing acts that entertained the guests in a uniquely South African way – **The Zip Zap Circus** performed their international award-winning **Joka Boys Bench Act** amid great enthusiasm from the guests.



"Another highlight was **Paint Addiction** – an incredible speed painting act that combines the wonder of art with the magic of entertainment. The two artists first puzzled and then delighted the guests with their unintelligible four canvasses – but put together it emerged as a huge painting of **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**, in celebration of his 85th birthday earlier this month.

"And finally we celebrated our local music industry with feet-tapping songs from the hit show **Remembering the Lux** performed by musician extraordinaire **Alistair Izobell** with members of the cast and band. It was a joyous experience and a great opportunity to boast a bit with our local talent!"



Guests received four uniquely South African gift tags by **Growing Paper** – a local company that uses handmade paper embedded with flower and herb seeds to manufacture greeting cards with an African motif. These tags are truly a gift that keeps on giving as the recipient can plant them and be awarded with a bunch of vygies and African Daisies. They also received handcrafted soap from **Wild Olive Apothecary and Perfumery** owned by a Romanian lady, **Marioara de la Tara**who established the factory to create jobs by teaching local people her art.



The evening ran smoothly in the capable hands of the MC, television presenter **Katlego Maboe**, who entertained the guests from all over the world with local idiosyncrasies.





"As always, **Ariella Kuper** of **Clear Asset** did an exceptional job of conducting the auction," said Isabel. "We reached a record amount for a single item – R225 000 for a five-day trip for five people with **Primate Safaris** to see the gorillas in Rwanda. They will be accompanied by wildlife celebrity **Dave Pepler** and will stay in some of the most beautiful camps in Africa – the **Ruzizi Tented Camp** in Akagera National Park and the **Gorilla Mountain View Lodge** as well as **Lake Kivu Serena**. It will truly be a Gorillas in the Mist adventure!"



Another item that evoked fierce bidding was donated by **Turkish Airlines** and included two return flights to Istanbul with an intimate lunch, private tour and overnight stay in the historic **Sait Halim Pasa Mansion**. During the bidding the airline's representative announced an upgrade to business class, much to the delight of the guests.

A highlight of the evening proved to be the **Tombola** for which guests could purchase tickets at R100 each and win prizes worth thousands of rand.



> "Thank you to the Consular Corps for once again organising this wonderful Ball that has become a prime social event on Cape Town's event calendar. Hard work and dedication has paid off in bringing great benefit to children of the City. Thank you to everyone involved, to the sponsors and to those who attended and gave so much so willingly."
>
> **ALDERMAN IAN NEILSON**
> EXECUTIVE DEPUTY MAYOR

Once again **Edelweiss Air** and **Air Mauritius** donated two return tickets.



Air Namibia also donated two return tickets to Walvis Bay plus four nights' accommodation in two 4-star hotels. And as a final surprise for the guests, the Dean and Consul General of Switzerland, **Bernadette Hunkeler Brown**, presented five **Swatch** watches to five lucky guests who



happened to be in the right seats.

The event was another successful and enjoyable evening for all involved, with a particularly pleasing result for the charity beneficiaries.

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