



**For Immediate Release**

**31 August 2009 : 13h00**

**IFA HR CANCELS LIVIERO CONTRACT AND WORK TO RESUME AT FAIRMONT ZIMBALI HOTEL**

“Work will resume at the Fairmont Zimbali Hotel & Resort site and every attempt will be made to meet the scheduled deadlines”, says Wessel Witthuhn, President of IFA Hotels & Resorts Africa and Indian Ocean.

“IFA HR is still the single largest foreign tourism investor in the Province of KZN. When we entered KZN in 2003 to develop Zimbali Coastal Resort we promised to deliver a new internationally branded and operated 5-star hotel for Zimbali. Nothing and no one will stop us from keeping that promise” he said.

“It is not our company policy to conduct our business through the media, however for the purpose of reassuring stakeholders and members of the public, IFA HR has been left no alternative but to issue today’s statement. During the past week, IFA HR has been the subject of two scurrilous media releases issued by Liviero Building, the principal contractor for the construction of the iconic Zimbali Fairmont Hotel & Resort. IFA HR believes that these statements were made maliciously and with the intent to cause severe financial harm and gain an undue advantage in a commercial dispute. The only course of action left open to us is to cancel the Liviero building contract, which has now been done, and enlist the services of our other contractors and subcontractors to finish the work timeously”, he continued.

Despite the spurious allegations made by Liviero Building, IFA HR chose not to use the mass media as a platform to air its own grievances against Liviero, but maintained a dignified silence until such time as its legal team advised IFA HR to issue a statement. IFA HR sought, and successfully won, an interdict in the Durban High Court on Thursday 27 August 2009 which granted an interim order restraining Liviero from preventing access to the Zimbali Hotel site under construction.

“The construction of the five star Hotel & Resort at Zimbali is a high profile development offering enormous benefits to both the Province of KZN and to tourism in general, and it is most unfortunate that Liviero has used gutter press tactics to draw attention to itself. IFA HR is financially sound, and I wish to assure our partners, customers and the media that IFA HR is more than able to meet its commitments both locally and internationally and is grateful for the massive support it has received this past week.” concluded Witthuhn.

Ends

**Wessel Witthuhn**

**President - Africa & Indian Ocean**



*Living à la carte*



## **CORPORATE PROFILE - IFA HOTELS & RESORTS**

[www.ifahotelsresorts.com](http://www.ifahotelsresorts.com)

IFA Hotels & Resorts is a leader in real estate development, specialising in premier integrated and mixed-use hotel and tourism resort projects throughout the Middle East, Europe, Africa, the Indian Ocean region, Asia and North America.

IFA Hotels & Resorts' activity in resort development began in the mid 80s with the acquisition and development of Pine Cliffs Resort in the Algarve, Portugal, through United Investments Portugal, which is part of the IFA Consortium.

The grandeur of Pine Cliffs provided the ideal environment for investment in the real estate sector as well as residential homes and resort living, and thus the consortium's link with the hospitality sector developed. Today, IFA Hotels & Resorts sets the international benchmark for the development of world class integrated real estate development.

A specialist in resort development, IFA Hotels & Resorts enjoys close links to premier hospitality operators such as Fairmont Hotels & Resorts, Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts, Kempinski Hotels and Sheraton Hotels & Resorts, appointed to manage properties around the world.

IFA Hotels & Resorts listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange in January 2006, with a market capitalisation of over US\$ 1 billion. The company also listed on the South African JSE Limited (Johannesburg Stock Exchange) during 2006 with plans to list on other major exchanges in the future. In January 2007, the company invested in listed Thai developer Raimon Land.

Globally, IFA Hotels & Resorts has entered into strategic alliances and joint venture partnerships with leading companies such as Kingdom Hotel Investment Group (Saudi Arabia), Nakheel (UAE), United Investments Portugal, YOTEL (UK), a strategic alliance with RCI (part of the Cendant's Group), Tongaat Hulett Developments (South Africa), Boschendal Ltd (South Africa), Raimon Land (Thailand), Ohlthaver & List (Namibia), Indian Ocean Resorts (Seychelles) and most recently Related (United States).

IFA Hotels & Resorts' current portfolio consists of 40 projects in total, of which 23 are hotels, with a total of 17,000 keys. Assets under management are valued at US\$ 10 billion.

The company is present in 14 markets across 4 continents: Kuwait, Dubai, Lebanon, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Portugal, France, South Africa, Zanzibar, Namibia, Seychelles, Thailand, Caribbean and New York, with plans to link its resorts to new parts of the globe. This will offer investors and tourists access to world class facilities through a network of hotels, residential resorts, vacation and residence club destinations.

IFA Hotels & Resorts' programme of brand acquisition and developer partnerships will continue into the future, illustrated by the ever growing strength of its product range: residences, hotels, resorts, hotel ownership, fractional ownership, vacation clubs, lifestyle membership clubs, yacht ownership clubs and jet ownership clubs.

This unique product range enables IFA Hotels & Resorts to continuously anticipate and deliver to the varying property investment and leisure requirements across the globe.