

Cresta makes quick start in supporting the community in Nigeria

Cresta Hotels has always taken its social responsibility very seriously and Cresta Kwara is no exception. In October 2009, the Cresta Kwara management team identified a village of some 300 people about an hour's drive away from the hotel called Oke-Igbala.

Oke-Igbala is one of 4 villages in Kwara State in which a number of residents are affected by leprosy. A relatively small number of Oke-Igbala residents actually suffer from the disease, but the stigma attached to it has led to almost this entire community being ostracised. In effect, this means that those of working age cannot get jobs and children from the village cannot get basic education. In addition, the adults who have actually contracted leprosy are often unable to look after themselves, which puts further stress on the able-bodied residents.

In order to make a real difference, Cresta Kwara mobilised some of its business partners, one of whom is donating a bus (for use as an ambulance for the community) and several air-conditioners to the hospital in the village. Rotary International also contributed second-hand clothing which they collected in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

On the 23rd of December 2009, the management team made the drive out to Oke-Igbala to hand over clothing, food items and drugs used in the treatment of malaria. Over the year 2010, Cresta Kwara will be working closely with Leprosy international to ensure that indeed a difference is made to the future of the residents of Oke-Igbala.



On the 1st of July 2009, Cresta Kwara Hotel became the newest member in Cresta's portfolio and the first Cresta-managed Hotel in Nigeria.

Kwara state is in the central region of Nigeria and Ilorin is its capital city. Kwara is considered to be one of the up and coming states in Nigeria, with relatively stable power supply and with tremendous opportunities for potential investors.

Kwara state is rich in cultural heritage largely because of its location. It is situated bordering on the Republic of Benin in the east and on the mighty Niger River in the North, Kwara is a state with enormous potential.

The recent commissioning of the new customs shed at the international airport will herald a new era in trading and export.

Shonga farms, a new initiative by the state government, have for the first time in many years introduced intensive commercial farming to Kwara state. Dairy products, cassava, corn, and vegetable farms make up the bulk of the produce of these farms. A number of other commercial farming enterprises have also taken root in Kwara as a result of this initiative.

The museum at Esie, approximately 45 minutes drive from the hotel, was established to showcase the excavation of several thousand traditional stone carvings in the 1950's.

The Mungo Park cenotaph is another historical monument situated in Kwara State, about an hour's drive from the hotel.

Cresta Kwara is situated on about 15 acres of land, and is ideally located in the Ilorin GRA, in close proximity to most of the major ministries. The hotel boasts 179 rooms, a 120-seater restaurant, a coffee bar, the Ariya Garden, an outdoor garden venue which can accommodate 300 guests, a half-Olympic swimming pool, a gym, several tennis and badminton courts and a football pitch.

Refurbishment

Cresta Kwara has embarked on a multi-million dollar refurbishment program, with an estimated completion date sometime in December 2010. The first floor of the 4-star rooms is nearing completion, and the expected completion date for the entire 4-star wing is scheduled for late May 2010.

On completion of the refurbishment, the hotel will consist of a 4 star wing and a 3-star wing, designed with modern international standards in mind.

The fact that all rooms in the four star wing will contain original artwork by local artist Sujjad is something we are particularly proud of.