



SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY NEWSLETTER

ASTANA JANUARY 2018



SA RE-ELECTED TO IMO COUNCIL



South Africa has been re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

The council is the Executive Organ of the IMO and is responsible for supervising the work of the organisation. The IMO itself is the global standard-setting authority for maritime safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping.

Voting to elect new member states of the council of the IMO for the 2018-19 period took place during the fifth day of the 30th Regular Session of the Assembly in London on 1 December.

South Africa's Deputy Minister of Transport, Sindisiwe Chikunga, has thanked all the member states that cast their ballot in favour of South Africa. She thanked the African Union (AU) for endorsing South Africa's candidature in the election.

South Africa has a long-standing relationship with the IMO since 1948 under observer status and the country became a member in 1995. The country has continued to actively maintain its relationship with the organisation and its members beyond this period.

Due to South Africa's continued diligence in IMO affairs and its role in the sub-Saharan region, South Africa continued to be re-elected to the IMO Council since 1999.

As a member of the IMO Council, South Africa served as vice chairperson from 2005 to 2015.

DEPUTY MINISTER LANDERS RECEIVES LETTERS OF APPOINTMENT OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTORS OF THE UNHCR, IFRC AND IOM

In November 2017, the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Luwellyn Landers, received letters of appointment of the

regional directors of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sharon Cooper; International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), Lorraine Mangwiro; and International Organisation of Migration (IOM), Charles Kwinin.



In his address, Deputy Minister Landers reaffirmed South Africa's commitment to the multilateral system, based on the rule of law and respect for international refugee law and international humanitarian law.

CAPE TOWN VOTED GREATEST CITY IN THE WORLD FOR FIFTH YEAR IN A ROW!



It's official. Again! For the fifth year in a row, the greatest city in the world has been named as Cape Town! And that's according to over 90 000 people ...

The 2017 Telegraph Travel Awards are selected according to votes cast by 90 000 readers of the United Kingdom newspaper.

The paper describes the winning city as "a coastal gem in the shadow of an iconic mountain, where fine wine flows and penguins roam. It could only be Cape Town".

Cape Town beat Canada's Vancouver and Japan's Tokyo to win the coveted travel award. Frustratingly for Vancouver, it's the fifth year in a row that they've come second. Tokyo, however, has shot up the chart from seventh

two years ago, to fifth last year and third this year.

2018 is expected to be an even bigger year for South Africa's Mother City, as the country celebrates a century since Nelson Mandela was born.

Other cities in the top 10 include Venice (Italy), Sydney (Australia) and New York (USA).

SA TO HOST 10TH BRICS SUMMIT IN JULY



South Africa, which took over the rotational Chairship of the emerging economies grouping Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS), is set to host the 10th BRICS summit in July.

The summit, which is scheduled from 25 – 27 July at the Sandton Convention Centre, will see South Africa building on the BRICS programme of development and prosperity for partner countries.

South Africa says the summit, which will be attended by heads of state from the grouping, will be an important milestone towards building stronger solidarity and cooperation among emerging markets.

The session was imperative as South Africa assumed the rotational Chairship from China from 1 January to 31 December 2018.

Amb Sooklal said the summit would showcase the cooperation that the BRICS countries enjoyed, as well as its impact globally as they addressed key challenges faced by emerging countries such as developmental challenges, growing the economy and addressing poverty and unemployment.

According to Amb Sooklal, within the BRICS context, South Africa has



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primary goals which are to see development and inclusive economic growth, promote value-added trade among BRICS countries and advance investment into the productive sector.

The five BRICS countries account for 26% of the world's landmass and are home to 43% of the world's population. The bloc is composed of emerging markets and the developing world.

There has been substantive progress achieved since South Africa joined BRICS in 2011, as seen for example in the launch of the Africa Regional Centre (ARC) of the New Development Bank (NDB) in South Africa.

The formation has strengthened its cooperative mechanism for institutional development, most notably witnessed in the creation of the NDB and the recently launched ARC in Johannesburg.

In 2015, total intra-BRICS trade amounted to R3,06 trillion.

South Africa's exports to BRICS countries marginally increased from R123 billion in 2011 to R138,2 billion in 2016, while in the same period, imports from BRICS countries also increased from R115 billion to R230 billion.

Total intra-BRICS foreign direct investment was R554 trillion at the end of February 2016.

However, despite the deepened relations within BRICS, Amb Sooklal said there was room for better coordination between BRICS countries in other areas.

PRESIDENT ZUMA CONGRATULATES PROF. MILLAR ON WINNING PRESTIGIOUS AU AWARD



President Jacob Zuma has congratulated renowned South African scien-

tist, Prof. Robert Millar, on winning the prestigious African Union (AU) Kwame Nkrumah Award on 28 January 2018.

The award was handed out during the opening ceremony of the 30th Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU, taking place in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Prof. Millar won in the Life and Earth Sciences Category. Each winner receives US\$100 000 in prize money.

President Zuma said: "The development of science and technology is essential for the improvement of the lives of Africa's people, and this is one area where we need to invest resources and encourage our youth to explore".

President Zuma also said: "The South African Government will continue to provide a conducive environment for research and innovation as one of those areas identified in the National Development Plan".

AU PREPARES WOMEN FOR FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION



The African Union (AU) International Centre for Girls and Women Education in Africa (AU/CIEFFA) says its high time women and girls are geared towards competitive industries in the fields of science.

"It is imperative for African states to move from commitment to action, to invest in human capital and financial resources so as to build self-confidence of girls and young women and boost their interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) or higher level of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)," said the AU in a statement.

Against this backdrop, the AU held the second High-Level Dialogue in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which aims to promote STEM-focused TVET for women and girls.

The dialogue formed part of the 30th AU Summit, which ended on 29 January 2018.

The high-level dialogue was in partnership with the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Addis Ababa as well as AU partners.

SAATM TO CREATE 300 000 JOBS



The launch of a Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) is expected to create 300 000 direct and two million indirect jobs on the continent.

"With preparations continuing on schedule, the launch of the SAATM will spur more opportunities to promote trade, cross-border investments in the production and service industries, including tourism, resulting in the creation of an additional 300 000 direct and two million indirect jobs contributing immensely to the integration and socio-economic growth of the continent," said African Union (AU) Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, Amani Abou-Zeid.

The SAATM was launched on 28 January at the AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as part of the first AU Agenda 2063 Flagship Project. Commissioner Abou-Zeid said the aviation industry currently supported eight million jobs in Africa and SAATM was created with the aim of enhancing connectivity on the continent.

"SAATM was created with the aim of enhancing connectivity and ensuring that the industry plays a more prominent role in the global economy and significantly contributing to the AU's Agenda 2063," said Commissioner Abou-Zeid.



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So far, 23 African countries out of 55 have subscribed to the SAATM, whereas 44 African countries signed the Yamoussoukro Decision.

The declaration on the establishment of a SAATM, as a Flagship Project of the AU Agenda 2063, was adopted by the AU Assembly in January 2015.

SA'S FIRST BLACK FEMALE WINEMAKER NTSIKI BIYELA IS SHAKING UP THE INDUSTRY



With a history dating back over three centuries, South Africa's world-renowned wine industry has long been the domain of generations of just a few elite white families. But the emergence of a crop of new black players such as winemaker and owner of Aslina Wines, Ntsiki Biyela, is changing the makeup of the industry that is among the world's top 10 wine producers.

Biyela, 39, shot to fame in 2004 as South Africa's first black female winemaker, shattering stereotypes about black people's affinity for wine, and she now exports around the world.

After 13 years on the wine scene, Biyela believes that the capital-intensive industry is "big enough" for new entrants, but admits it is "not easy to crack".

"Apart from the financial aspect of it, the winemaking process demands dedication, from dealing with the vine-growers, buyers and the consumers," she said.

Her export-focused company, Aslina Wines, established three years ago, produces sauvignon blanc, cabernet sauvignon, chardonnay and a bordeaux blend sourced from around Stellenbosch, South Africa's mountain-rimmed wine region outside Cape Town.

"I produce the wine myself and oversee the process from the beginning to end," she told AFP.

In a wine-bottling facility in Stellenbosch, hundreds of Aslina wines snake through a conveyor belt, ready to be packaged and shipped to destinations as various as the United States, Germany, Ghana and Taiwan.

The wine is not yet available locally in South Africa, but plans are afoot to take it to many more global markets.

Biyela entered the industry after studying viticulture studies at Stellenbosch University, and worked as a resident winemaker at Stellekaya Winery, a family-owned producer.

Her cabernet sauvignon earned her South Africa's Woman Winemaker of the Year Award in 2009, affirming her place among the country's top vintners in a sector still dominated by white men.

SOUTH AFRICAN WOMAN BRINGS THE HOUSE DOWN IN NEW YORK AND WORLDWIDE



A South African woman, Belinda Davids, has been bringing the house down around the world.

In December, Belinda's incredible rendition of Whitney Houston's I Will Always Love You earned her a standing ovation at the prestigious Showtime At The Apollo in New York. It's the very same stage where Whitney herself recorded Greatest Love of All.

Belinda started earning money performing in clubs at the age of 40. She was signed to a few record labels but, she says, it "didn't quite work out". It

was a setback for her ... but because of her passion for singing and music, she just couldn't give up.

Belinda beat out almost 15 000 other hopefuls to win the lead role in a tribute show by Showtime Australia, called The Greatest Love of All: The Whitney Houston Show. The show is currently in Australia and will be in the United Kingdom in April and South Africa in June!

SA GOLF COURSES SHINE



Fancourt in the Garden Route was recently honoured as Golf Resort of the Year at the 18th annual International Association of Golf Tour Operators Awards, and now The Links – a privately-owned club at Fancourt – has improved its ranking in the 2018 Golf Digest World Top 100 Golf Courses.

The Links has gained kudos as the Golf Digest World 100 magazine (US edition) ranked this challenging golf course number 38, from number 43.

Other golf estates across the country that made the prestigious list are Leopard Creek that's situated on the border of the Kruger National Park and ranked at number 65, and Kwa-Zulu-Natal's, Durban Country Club ranked at number 96.