



# SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY NEWSLETTER

## ASTANA APRIL 2016



**President Jacob Zuma co-chaired the UN high level commission**



President Jacob Zuma visited the city of Lyon, France, where he co-chaired the official launch of the United Nations High Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth (HLC HEEG) with French President Hollande.

The two leaders have been appointed by the UN Secretary General as co-chairs of the UN high level commission.



President Zuma greets staff at the oncology centre in Lyon, France.

**The first meeting of the Coordination Council of the Diplomatic Business Club held in Astana**



Ambassadors and business people

The first meeting of the Coordination Council of the Diplomatic Business Club was held in Astana with the participation of Ambassadors in Kazakhstan and the leading Kazakh business people. The regulations of the club were reviewed, while the basic goals and objectives, as well as a joint action plan of diplomats and business people for 2016 were determined.

The idea to create a Diplomatic Business Club was that of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Yerlan Idrisov. This initiative to organize an informal platform to strengthen communication and was

**THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY WISHES TO CONGRATULATE THE KAZAKH GOVERNMENT WITH THE SUCCESSFUL ELECTIONS HELD ON 20 MARCH 2016**

supported by the chairman of the Presidium of the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of RK "Atameken", Timur Kulibayev.

The participants discussed the issues of cooperation between the Diplomatic Business Club with the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan, Young Presidents' Organization and other business organizations. Board members emphasized the need to facilitate the entry of investors into the market of Kazakhstan and to find foreign partners for Kazakhstan business people, output of domestic companies to international markets, promotion of their products and services. The Diplomatic Business Club will assist the diplomatic corps with the organization of visits to other regions of Kazakhstan, using regional councils of entrepreneurs and regional chambers of entrepreneurs.

Diplomats and business people noted the timeliness of the creation of the Diplomatic Business Club and intend to continue with efforts to make this project successful and useful for all participants.

**Guest lecture at KAZGUU**



Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Mr Shirish M. Soni, Ambassador of the French Republic, H.E. Mr Francis Etienne, Director of the International Department of KAZGUU University, Ms Rinata Faizova, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway, H.E. Mr Ole Johan Bjornoy and Ambassador of the Republic of Lebanon, H.E. Mr Vazken Kavlakian.

On March 3, 2016 KAZGUU University hosted a guest lecture by H.E. Francis Etienne, Ambassador of the French Republic and H.E. Vazken Kavlakian Ambassador of the Republic of Lebanon.

Amb. Etienne presented on the history of terrorism in his country and effective

measures to prevent terrorism, while Amb Kavlakian presented his views on terrorism and social justice. Both answered questions of the KAZGUU University students. The lecture aroused great interest among the students and proved to be quite relevant. The participants actively discussed various issues of terrorism and social justice.

Following the lecture, Mr. Shirish Soni, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa gave the following advice to KAZGUU students: "Do not be vulnerable and be able to distinguish between "good and bad".

Ms. Renata Faizova, Director of the Institute of postgraduate programs and international affairs of the KAZGUU, expressed gratitude to Mr Francis Etienne and Mr. Vazken Kavlakian, and handed out them a diploma of appreciation.

**Happy Nauryz!**



The Counsellor of the SA Embassy in Astana and journalists

On behalf of the South African Embassy, we would like to congratulate everybody most cordially on the occasion of the Nauryz celebrations! This day is always special for us, which brings a lot of fun and joy to everybody. May this day unite all people and bring a lot of wellbeing to our close people! May Nauryz bring a lot of success and harmony, prosperity and wealth, peace and happiness! May all our dreams and wishes come true! Happy Nauryz!

**SA Embassy Women's Day**



The ladies of the Embassy being spoiled by the Ambassador and the Counsellor

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The South African Embassy's gentlemen surprised the Embassy's ladies on the occasion of the International Women's Day on 8 March. They arranged a sightseeing tour with a Hummer limousine and took the ladies of the Embassy and the diplomats' families to a restaurant and presented beautiful roses.

On behalf of the Embassy's ladies, we express our heartfelt gratitude to the Embassy's gentlemen for such an unforgettable surprise!!! We really appreciate you!!!

The Embassy trusts that all ladies celebrated a wonderful International Women's Day, and wishes you love, peace and harmony!

### Celebrating International Women's Day with African drums



At the request of the Park Inn by Radisson Astana Hotel, the South African Embassy in Astana conducted a drumming workshop for hotel employees as a part of their preparations on the eve of International Women's Day. As a promotion of South African culture, the South African Ambassador, H.E. Mr. S.M. Soni together with Embassy staff, accepted the request and gave a master class in playing African drums Djembe. Within two

rehearsals the hotel staff learned how to play the drums. Afterwards, the Hotel "drummers" performed during their 8th of March celebration for their guests and clients and invited guests to enjoy playing African drums. The rhythm of African drums helped people to relax and get energised and will remain forever in the minds of the people.

### Kazakhstan presented its art to South Africa for the first time



"Young Ballet of Kazakhstan", which includes students of the Almaty Choreographic School named after Seleznev, has successfully conducted a tour to Pretoria, capital city of South Africa, BNews.kz reported.

The young artists performed world ballet classics. Kazakh folk dances, such as "Kamazhai", "Kustar" and "Asatayak", received a special ovation from the audience gathered in the capital's Breytenbach theatre.



Mr. Daniyar Sharipov, Ms. Svetlana Medeubayeva, SA Ambassador Shirish M. Soni, Ms. Lyudmila Lee, Kazakh Ambassador, Talgat Kaliyev and Darya Prodanova

During his welcoming speech, the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the Republic of South Africa Mr. Talgat Kaliyev stressed that the tour of the Kazakhstan artists became an historic event, "which was the first step towards strengthening cultural ties between our countries". The South African Ambassador to Kazakhstan, Mr Shirish Soni, noted that the concert of the young Kazakh ballet coincided with the Nauruz celebrations. He said that "this is the first time that South Africa celebrates Nauruz."

The Kazakh MFA's press service reported that the leaders of the group, Lyudmila Lee and Svetlana Medeubaeva, presented a master class in the studio of the Johannesburg Youth Ballet Theatre.



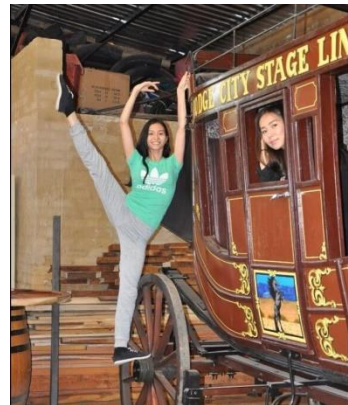
Ballet group with the Counsellor of the Kazakh Embassy in Pretoria, Mr. Berik Sadykov



A master class by the Kazakh ballet teachers



Performance in the capital's Breytenbach Theatre



Dancers enjoy their visit to South Africa



Girls in the Kazakh National Costumes