



SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY NEWSLETTER

ASTANA FEBRUARY 2016



Team South Africa concluded a successful programme in Davos assuring investors of policy certainty and economic stability



Team Presidency in Davos, supporting our President, Ministers and business leaders

Team South Africa on Saturday 23 January 2016 concluded a successful programme at the 2016 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. President Zuma, led a high powered Team South Africa delegation and delivered the message that South Africa is open for business to global investors and other stakeholders.

South Africa reiterated that the National Development Plan, the 9 point plan for economic recovery and Operation Phakisa were being implemented with a view to ensuring economic and social growth and development. The current global economic challenges require South Africa to develop a robust and responsive set of measures to ensure economic stability.

With particular reference to the theme of Davos 2016, Mastering the 4th Industrial Revolution, Team South Africa emphasised the need to create a balance between the use of technology to mechanise and industrialise to move the economy into a knowledge state of human development and job security.

The overwhelming sentiment emanating from Davos was that investors continue to see South Africa as a preferred investment destination. The fact the multinationals – amongst others, Mercedes Benz, BMW, Johnston and Johnston, Marriot Hotels - continue to invest in the country is indicative of this positive sentiment. In addition, many countries around the world are faced with similar challenges of slowing economic growth, falling commodity and oil prices. Davos 2016 presented Team South Africa with an opportunity to discuss these challenges, global responses and best practices.

In the last week, ICICI Bank of India announced it would establish an office in South Africa.

Minister Davies said that “We’re telling investors that - despite our country’s enormous challenges,

many due to global shocks – we are resilient.” It is also significant that according to the Oxford Business Group “foreign investors are often less pessimistic about South Africa than many South African companies are.”

Opening ceremony of TAPI pipeline



Turkmenistan hosted the launch ceremony of TAPI which took place on Sunday 13 December 2015.

The TAPI (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline) launch ceremony was led jointly by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov of Turkmenistan, President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan and Vice President Hamid Ansari of India.

The ceremony that was held some 25 km east of Mary city on 13 December 2015 would not have happened without Turkmenistan going out of its way to create concord among the participating countries and voluntarily taking the maximum load of the project.

It must be underlined that Turkmenistan never treated TAPI as merely a commercial project: There was always the declared intention to use the natural resources of Turkmenistan to promote peace, stability and prosperity in the entire region. And, these were not mere words --- Together with the TAPI launch ceremony, there was the start of phase III of the development of Galkynysh gas field, where a consortium of the Japanese and Turkish companies will develop the capacity to produce and purify 33 billion cubic meters of gas annually to feed TAPI.

The financial commitment of Turkmenistan toward TAPI is impressive --- the phase III of Galkynysh will cost nearly US \$ 3-5 billion and in addition Turkmenistan, as TAPI consortium leader, will bear 51% of the project cost. This is in line with the Turkmen way of doing things that words should be fully backed by deeds.

South African icon Ahmed Kathrada received top honours from the city of Cape Town



Ms. Barbara Hogan and Mr. Ahmed Kathrada

The event held by the City of Cape Town to confer the Freedom of the city award to Ahmed Kathrada was simple and dignified. Mayor De Lille delivered one of the best tributes to Kathrada. Well done to all the political parties in the Cape Town City Council and the Mayor for this immense honour that you bestowed onto someone who even on the day thought there were others more deserving of it than him.

New Standard Minimum Rules on treatment of prisoners



Promoting fair and effective criminal justice

The Embassy of South Africa to Kazakhstan was invited to be co-organiser of the roundtable dedicated to the new Standard Minimum Rules on treatment of prisoners, where Ambassador Shirish M. Soni made the opening remark.

This roundtable was also dedicated to celebrate 10 December the International Day of Human Rights, giving special attention to the Human Rights of prisoners and persons deprived of liberty.

PRI's roundtable gathered state official authorities, representatives of the Parliament, ministries, NGOs, Public Monitoring Commissions from all the regions of Kazakhstan, international organisations, and the Executive Director of PRI – Ms. Alison Hannah.

The roundtable took place on 10 December 2015, at the conference hall of the ‘Marriot hotel Astana’



INDABA is one of the largest tourism marketing events on the African calendar and one of the top three ‘must visit’ events of its kind on the global calendar which will be held from 7 to 9 May 2016. It showcases the widest variety of Southern Africa’s best tourism products and attracts international buyers and media from across the world. INDABA has won the awards for Africa’s best travel and tourism show. This award was presented by the Association of World Travel Awards.



Cape Town International Jazz Festival (CTIJF) is the largest music event in sub-Saharan Africa. The festival, now preparing for its 17th year. This proudly South African produced event is hosted at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) each year on the last weekend of March or the first weekend of April. The festival annually boasts 5 stages with more than 40 artists performing over 2 nights. The programming - unique to the CTIJF is made up of a 50/50 split between South African artists and international artists respectively. The festival hosts in excess of 37, 000 music lovers over the 2 show days.



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Lifting of sanctions on Iran



South Africa welcomes the announcement that Iran has fulfilled all of its initial commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action nuclear deal, resulting in the immediate lifting of all United States and European Union nuclear-related sanctions on Iran.

This achievement is a shining example that proves that negotiation and dialogue is the only way to find sustainable solutions to international conflicts. South Africa hopes that the spirit of cooperation and concord shown in reaching the Iran nuclear deal will be carried-over to settling other conflicts globally.

South Africa believes that the world should build on the momentum generated by the Iran nuclear deal to make progress on nuclear disarmament, as well as the establishment of the Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and all other Weapons of Mass Destruction.

The South African government fully supports trade and investment with Iran and has been working hard to revive economic ties with Iran, which is one of the biggest and richest consumer markets in the Middle East. We strongly encourage South African businesses to take advantage of the enormous opportunities that will arise from the lifting of sanctions.

AU Summit



President of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Mr. Jacob G. Zuma

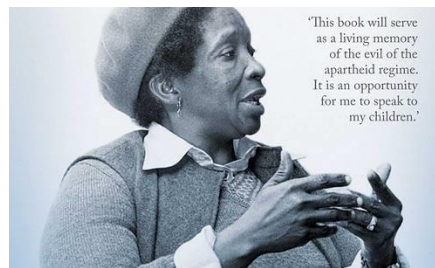
H.E. President Jacob Zuma led a South African delegation to the 26th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, held on 30 and 31 January 2016 in Addis Ababa. The Summit took place under the theme: "2016, African Year of Human Rights with a particular focus on Women Rights."

The year 2016, marks important milestones in the continental and global women's agenda for gender equality and women empowerment. Continentally, it is the 30th anniversary of the coming into force of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights in 1986 and the beginning of the second phase of the African Women's Decade 2010-2020.

The African Women's Decade is the AU's implementation framework which aims to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women. Among the major issues of focus that the Summit was looking at were:

- the status of peace and security in Africa,
- financing of the Union,
- governance,
- elections and constitutionalism, as well as
- the implementation of NEPAD projects and the African Peer Review Mechanism.

SIX AFRICAN FEMALE WRITERS WHO INFLUENCED CHANGE



EMMA MASHININI (born 21 August 1929) is a South African trade unionist and political leader. Living in Johannesburg, her family was forcibly displaced several times during her childhood. She was active with the African National Congress (ANC) in 1956. She was arrested and detained without charges for six months in 1981–82. Mashinini played several important roles in the transition to ANC rule in the 1980s and 1990s.



WANGARI MUTA MAATHAI (1 April 1940 – 25 September 2011) was a Kenyan environmental and political activist. In the 1970s, Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement, an environmental non-governmental organization focused on the planting of trees, environmental conservation, and women's rights. In 2004, received the Nobel Peace Prize for "her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace".



BUCHI EMECHETA: Born in Lagos, Nigeria, in 1944, Emecheta's life and work has, in effect, set the stage for a new generation of west African female writers. Like Chinua Achebe and Adichie, Emecheta has provided a fictional exploration of the Biafran War in *Destination Biafra* (1982).



CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE: Born in Enugu, Nigeria, in 1977, Adichie has received popular and critical acclaim since the publication of her first novel, *Purple Hibiscus*, in 2003. With the publication of *Half of a Yellow Sun* in 2006, for instance, she explored the Biafran War that was so central to Achebe's literary project, among many others.



South Africa will be hosting the 35th „World Cup of Geosciences“ in 2016, the prestigious International Geological Congress (IGC), which is undoubtedly the most important activity of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). The South African event will take place at the Cape Town International Convention Centre from 27 August to 4 September 2016.



Investing in African Mining Indaba is an annual professional conference dedicated to the capitalisation and development of mining interests in Africa.



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FLORENCE NWANZURUAHU NKIRU NWAPA (13 January 1931 – 16 October 1993): Nigerian author best known as Flora Nwapa, mother of modern African literature. Best known for recreating life and traditions from an Igbo woman's viewpoint. Nwapa also is known for her governmental work in reconstruction after the Biafran War. In particular she worked with orphans and refugees who were displaced during the war.



MARIAMA BÂ. Born in Dakar, Senegal, in 1929, Bâ has come to be regarded as one of the most original writers to have emerged from west Africa. Her life and work were preoccupied with issues such as gender relations, power and inequality, as well as the ways in which these were framed and affected by African and Islamic cultural beliefs. She died before her second novel, *Scarlet Song* (1986), was published.

World Culture Festival 2016, Delhi, 11 to 13 March



The World Culture Festival 2016 is a celebration of The Art of Living's 35 years of service, humanity, spirituality and human values. It will take place on March 11-13, 2016 in New Delhi, India. The festival will celebrate the diversity in cultures from across the world while simultaneously highlighting our unity as a human family.

Our Inspiration: "We are inspired to continue with more enthusiasm and greater speed to realize the dream, where life becomes a celebration and the world will become one family. The World Culture Festival is a celebration of achievements and a vision to do better."

Mrs. Ruweida Soni is appointed as the Africa coordinator for the World Culture Festival where she will showcase African dressing, drumming and dancing.

Team from Kazakhstan won in Africa Eco Race



The Embassy of the Republic of South Africa congratulates Mr. Kanat Shagirov and Mobilex Racing Team with the win on the Africa Eco Race.

Kazakh swimming team visits South Africa



The National Swimming Team of the Republic of Kazakhstan left for Pretoria, South Africa, for training at the High Performance Centre of the University of Pretoria. The team will take part in the Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2016.

The group is represented by the following sportsmen: Mr. Adil Kaskabai, Ms. Yekaterina Rudenko and Mr. Dmitry Balandin. The swimmers are accompanied by the Head Coach Mr. Oleg Vagizov, Personal Coach of Dmitry Balandin Mr. Alexey Kazakov, Coach Analyst Mr. Stanislav Osinskiyi, Doctor Ms. Yelena Galits and Masseur Ms. Natalya Maksimova.

Dmitry Balandin, team leader, is an International Master of Sports, three-time champion of the XVII Summer Asian Games in 2014 (Incheon, South Korea), at a breaststroke race distances of 50, 100 and 200 meters. He is also a winner of the XXVIII World Summer Universiade 2015 (Gwangju, South Korea), in the 100m breaststroke and silver medallist of the Universiade, in the 50m breaststroke, Asian record holder and a repeated record holder and champion of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Yekaterina Rudenko is a world-class sportswoman, double silver medallist of the XVII Summer Asian Games in 2014 (Incheon, South Korea), at distances of 50 and 100 m backstroke and repeated record holder and champion of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The High Performance Centre of the University of Pretoria was selected for the trainings due to its high level of training facilities and favourable weather conditions.



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