



# SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY NEWSLETTER

## ASTANA NOVEMBER 2015



**South Africa always seeks mutually beneficial relationships in its international engagements, the writer says**



Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Luwellyn Landers

South Africa's foreign policy remains an extension of the country's domestic priorities. All our international engagements seek to address the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment and our objectives as contained in the National Development Plan (NDP).

Our future well-being also remains inextricably linked to the future of Africa. Since the attainment of democracy, South Africa has continued to premise its foreign policy on the inherent African identity and collective aspirations. The African Agenda is premised on the Pan-Africanist vision of creating a peaceful, stable and prosperous continent.

The key outcomes of the 25th African Union (AU) Summit that South Africa hosted in June 2015; the seventh Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) Summit in July 2015 in Ufa, Russia and the upcoming Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Johannesburg in December 2015, illustrate the centrality of the African Agenda in South Africa's foreign policy.

The 25th AU Summit adopted the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063, a 50-year strategic framework for people-centred, inclusive growth and sustainable development. The First Ten-Year Plan also identifies key projects that have to be attained by 2023.

Furthermore, the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) negotiations were launched by the summit. This will go a long way in integrating Africa's markets and facilitating free movement of goods and means of production.

South Africa's role in the conception of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) gave meaning to the concept and the pursuit of African solutions to African problems. We continue to play a very active part in the prevention, management and resolution of conflict in Africa, including improving working relations between the UN Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council. *This is an edited address by the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation,*

*Luwellyn Landers, at the Dirco/Accord Public Lecture at the University of KwaZulu-Natal*

**A briefing on the nomination of Kazakhstan's candidacy for a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council, MFA**



H.E. Mr. Erlan Idrissov, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan arranged a briefing on the nomination of Kazakhstan's candidacy for a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council 21 October 2015. During the briefing H.E. Mr. Erlan Idrissov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan made some remarks on African Agenda. He said that during the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN General Assembly, the Government of Kazakhstan and the UNDP signed a \$2 million-cost sharing agreement for a new project "Africa Kazakhstan Partnership for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" The initiative focuses on technical support to ministries of foreign affairs and other relevant institutions in 45 countries of Africa. The project will promote sharing of institutional experiences and best practices as governments prepare to implement the new 2030 global agenda.

**70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UN celebrated in Kazakhstan**



The Chairman of the Senate, Mr. Kassym-Zhomart Tokayev

This year the United Nations celebrates 70th anniversary. Kazakhstan also celebrates it to recognize the history of establishment and activity of organisation in the development the spheres of security and human rights. From the beginning of the year there were number of events dedicated to the anniversary.

One of the important events was the opening of the international scientific-practical conference "United Nations and UNESCO: 70 years of work", where the Chairman of the Senate Kassym-Zhomart Tokayev delivered a speech at the Eurasian National University named after L.N. Gumilyev for the subject: "UN is unique and non-competitive organization".

Mr. Tokayev pointed out the uniqueness of the United Nations as a fact that the organization deals with all the relevant problems of mankind and solves them on the basis of the Charter.

In the speech K. Tokayev overviewed the initiatives of Kazakhstan in the global security and peace. In particular, the proposal to convene a Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia as said President N. Nazarbayev.

The Speaker also pointed out the ideas expressed by the Head of State at the 70th session of the UN General Assembly: to abandon the war and conflict, to develop a plan for global strategic initiative and the concept of "New future".

K. Tokayev also suggested that, despite some shortcomings, the United Nations is a unique and non-competitive organization. "Thanks to the UN, Kazakhstan has become a full subject of international law, took part in world affairs on security and development.

Mr. Tokayev expressed the opinion that only under the auspices of the UN the world community is able to develop effective responses to global challenges.

**Meeting with Tau-Ken Altyn**



Director, Mr. Meiramgaliy Tleuzhanov, Ambassador of South Africa, H.E. Mr. Shirish M. Soni and Trade and Info Assistant of the SA Embassy, Ms. Jamilya Akmurzayeva

Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa in Astana, H.E. Mr. Shirish M. Soni visited the gold refinery in Astana, where Director, Mr. Meiramgaliy Tleuzhanov demonstrated the process of gold production. Also Ambassador Soni had a chance to put a stamp on one gold bar with his own hands.

Director of Tau-Ken Altyn refinery suggested opportunity to cooperate with South African business people engaged in gold business for further processing in on the factory.

By the invitation from the Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM) two senior specialists of Tau-Ken Altyn attended World Gold 2015 conference in South Africa which was held from 28 September to 2 October 2015 in Johannesburg.

For more information see: [http://www.saimm.co.za/saimm-events/upcoming-events?page=shop.product\\_details&category\\_id=2&flypage=flypage\\_events.tpl&product\\_id=88](http://www.saimm.co.za/saimm-events/upcoming-events?page=shop.product_details&category_id=2&flypage=flypage_events.tpl&product_id=88)



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### Celebration of International Non-Violence Day in the framework of KAZGUU Academic Diplomatic Club



The South African Ambassador to Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Shirish M. Soni participated in the commemoration of the International Non-Violence Day organised by the Indian Embassy in Astana on 2 October 2015 at KazGUU University.

The Diplomatic Corps of Astana, government officials, academics and students of the University attended the event. The celebration was started by screening of a documentary movie about Mahatma Gandhi. Prior to the opening ceremony, speakers placed flower garlands on the bust of Mahatma Gandhi.

The programme included the opening speeches by the Ambassador of India, H.E. Mr. Harsh Kumar Jain, the Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Mr. Shirish M. Soni, the Rector of KAZGUU, Mr Talgat Narikbayev and the Deputy Director of African and Asian Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of RK, Mr. Kairat Akhmetalin.

During the speech Ambassador Soni addressed the audience with an informative message about the influence of Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy and principles on the people of South Africa.

Please watch the movie: <http://youtu.be/ibagACLb-6S>

### SA ranks third in the Open Budget Index Survey



In recognition of South Africa's commitment to a transparent budget process, the country has notched third place in the 2015 Open Budget Index (OBI) Survey.

"Over the years, South Africa has consistently entrenched its reputation as a global leader in budget transparency. This is evidenced in the expansive budget information that is published for public analysis and scrutiny, as well as in its performance in international budget surveys," said National Treasury. South Africa took the third spot after New Zealand and Sweden.

"In 2010, South Africa obtained first place in the Open Budget Index Survey. The 2015 ranking of third out of the 102 countries that were surveyed reflected increased emphasis placed on budget participation," said National Treasury. The South African Mission in Astana is talking to the governments of countries in Central Asia about the possible sharing of the South African experience. You can find full article on: <http://www.cbn.co.za/news/services/money-matters-in-business/sa-ranks-third-in-open-budget-index-survey>

### Opening of East Gate Free Economic Zone by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Idrissov



The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Idrissov and Heads of Missions on the opening ceremony

On 19 October 2015 South African Ambassador HE Mr. S.Soni visited objects of the Khorgos – East Gate Free Economic Zone and the Khorgos International Centre for Boundary Cooperation. The tour was conducted with the participation of H.E. Mr. E. Idrissov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Mayor of the Almaty oblast Mr. A. Batalov.

### The Enactus World Cup 2015: 14-16 October 2015: Sandton.



Enactus is an international non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring students to improve the world through entrepreneurial actions.

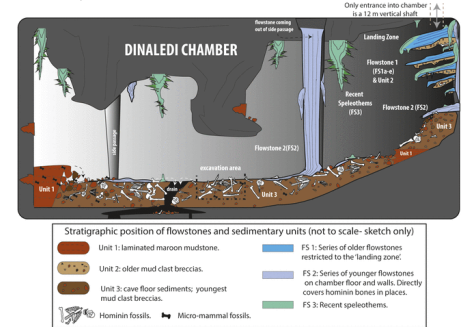
Every year a selected group of 3,500 students, business and academics from around the globe meet at Enactus World Cup to showcase the entrepreneurial action and to share innovation that transforms lives and creates a better future. National champion teams from 36 Enactus countries came together in Johannesburg in hopes of winning the coveted World Cup.

This year the team from UK won the Enactus World Cup.

About 20 students participated from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The South African Mission in Astana was extremely pleased that a team comprising student from KAZGUU University participated in the World Cup. For more information: [www.enactus.org](http://www.enactus.org)

### Participation of the scientist from Nazarbayev University, Mr. Zachary D Cofran in the discovery of Homo Naledi

Mr. Zachary D Cofran specifies on Evolutionary Studies Institute and Centre of Excellence in Palaeo Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa; School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Nazarbayev University, Astana, Kazakhstan



Extracts from article by Mr. Zachary D Cofran: "In spring of 2015, Lee Berger made Twitter and Facebook call for early career scientists to participate in the Rising Star Workshop, to create the initial descriptions and analyse the haul of 1500 fossils. The moment I saw the call I fixed up my CV and submitted my application. In March I found out I was accepted, and on 06 May I travelled to the University of the Witwatersrand ("Wits") in Johannesburg, South Africa, to join dozens of other scientists for the Workshop. Again this was exceptional because usually when new fossils are discovered, only a small set of usually senior scientists get to be involved.

Since I study growth and development, I got to work with every part of the body. I knew the first day of the Workshop, walking around the lab and getting a first look at the fossils, that this was something unlike anything anyone had ever seen before. Indeed, we concluded that this was a new species – not representative of an already known species – because of the unique combination of features within the sample.

Clearly there are many questions about these enigmatic humans that remain to be answered. Most crucially, we still don't know exactly how old the site is. Much of the anatomy of Homo Naledi is similar to what we see in humans over a million years ago.

One last exceptional thing about this project is how easily these fossils are accessible to literally anyone in the world (at least anyone with an internet connection). The scientific papers, rich in





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information and excellent pictures, can be downloaded for free from the open-access journal eLife. In addition, 3D surface scans of over 80 of the fossils can be downloaded for free from the website MorphoSource. This means that anyone can begin studying these bones, either to test scientific hypotheses or just for fun. The Rising Star Project is the beginning of an important move in palaeoanthropology (the study of human origins), toward open data access which will lead to better scientific practices. This is certainly a great time to be studying human evolution!"

For more detailed information see:

Scientific papers about Homo Naledi:

<http://elifesciences.org/content/4/e09560>

<http://elifesciences.org/content/4/e09561>

3D scans of Homo Naledi fossils:

<http://morphosource.org/index.php/Detail/Project>

[Detail/Show/project\\_id/124](http://morphosource.org/index.php/Detail/Project/Detail/Show/project_id/124)

### MAIN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

#### Mining Indaba



#### Travel Information

Each year Mining Indaba welcomes more than 7,000 delegates from over 100 countries and territories across the globe to Cape Town. In order to make travel arrangements as easy and convenient as possible for our delegates the links below will provide information about discounted airfares, hotels, transport, tours and requesting invitation letters.

Quick links to important information on this page:

[Travel and Accommodations](#)

[Discount Airfare](#)

[Travel Advisories](#)

[Official Event Venue - CTICC](#)

#### Travel, Accommodation & Tours



**Tour d'Afrique is the Official Housing and Tour provider of the 2016 Mining Indaba**

Planning a trip to South Africa can be daunting, but to make it easier for you we have appointed Tour d'Afrique, proudly based in South Africa, to book your hotels, transport and tours. They will guide you as to which sights and activities should not be missed on your visit to this beautiful country. Along with your accommodation, tours can be arranged for you, your family or corporate groups – before, during and after the Mining Indaba. As a

recognized leader in the local and regional tourism market, they have developed a reputation for superior service levels and competitive pricing with a wide variety of tour options to appeal to individuals, small or large groups and incentives. Our multilingual staff component has provided quality tourism services to International travellers for 16 years.

The team at Tour D'Afrique can provide assistance in the following key areas:

- Hotel accommodations
- Book air travel with your preferred airline or one of the many offering discounts to Mining Indaba delegates
- Tourism and Golf packages
- Airport or other ground car service transport

**Start booking your accommodations online for 2016**

[Visit the Tour d'Afrique website](#) or call +27 (0)21 526 9000.

**Special Airfare Discounts Available for Delegates**

Official  Airline  Partner

**SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS**

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

Special Worldwide Airline Discounts on South African Airways, official airline partner of the 2016 Mining Indaba. Through our partnership, we are able to extend discounts to our delegates who fly SAA to Cape Town from anywhere in the world for the Mining Indaba. Fare discounts will be determined by the origin of travel, flight schedule, and cabin type.

**How to Redeem this Offer**

Valid Travel Dates: 2 February - 16 February 2016

Mention required discount code: **MI2016**  
Visit the [FlySAA.com](http://FlySAA.com) website to locate a telephone service center or to book your registration online. You must mention the required discount code.

### 35TH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS



Join a top-class list of INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL GEOSCIENCE EXHIBITORS  
27 AUGUST - 4 SEPTEMBER 2016 | CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

27 August – 4 September 2016, Cape Town, South Africa

[CLICK HERE FOR INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION](#)

Use this link should you wish to register more than one delegate from your company:

<https://allevents.eventsair.com/35iqc/group>

The organising committee is proud to announce preferential rates for 35<sup>th</sup> IGC delegates only on South African Airways during travel dates 5<sup>th</sup> August to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and Emirates Airline during travel dates 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2016 to 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

On payment of your registration fees you will receive the Promotional codes to be used on the respective websites to book these preferential rates.



**Adventure experiences:** Whatever you're craving for adventure, South Africa will satisfy it. The country offers excellent opportunities for climbing, surfing, diving, hiking, horseback safaris, mountain biking, river rafting and a host of other adventures, all supported by [dedicated operators](#).

**Cultural experiences:** From modern art galleries to rock-art centres, state-of-the-art museums to remote cultural villages, city jazz clubs to open air festivals... These are just some of the ways in which you could [experience the country's rich culture and heritage](#).

**City experiences:** South African cities offer an exciting mix of first- and third-world influences. From eventful Cape Town - one of the most beautiful cities in the world - to bustling Johannesburg, each city offers unique attractions.

**Food and wine:** South Africa is a cultural melting pot, which is reflected in the country's cuisine. South African food celebrates a rich heritage and the natural bounty of seafood, meat, game and vegetation. South Africa's excellent wines have been earning enthusiastic praise internationally for 300 years. Peruse the menu - and [find out where to eat tonight!](#)