

#### **EDITORIAL TEAM**

**Editor-In-Chief Managing Editor** Editor **Guest Editor Copy Editor** Designers **Photographers Editorial Commitee** 

**Publisher** 

Clayson Monyela Zengeziwe Msimang Kgopotso Rapakuana

Delien Burger Lerato Motubatsi Jacoline Schoonees Linah Ledwaba, Daisy Motsisi Mapitso Rathabe The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO)

Tel: +27 12 351 1000, www.dirco.gov.za Private Bag X152, PRETORIA, 0001 Republic of South Africa

460 Soutpansberg Road, Rietondale, Pretoria, 0084, Republic of South Africa

No portion of this magazine may be reproduced in any form without the written permission of the publishers. DIRCO is not responsible for unsolicited material and reserves the right to amend and alter copy and visual material as deemed necessary. Copyright is reserved. Views in It's your Voice-Ubuntu Diplomat are not necessary those of DIRCO or the South African Government. They can accept no liability arising out of or in connection with the contents of this publication.

## **Editor's Letter**

Pear Piplomats,



s we commemorated Human Rights Month and reflect on the progress made in the 22 years of our democracy, we noted that this year's celebrations took place under the theme: "South Africa United against Racism". The President declared that Human Rights Day 2016 be commemorated as the national day against racism and as a foundation to lay a long-term programme for building a non-racial society.

In this issue, we highlight the State of the Nation Address, delivered by President Jacob Zuma, during which South Africa's foreign policy was outlined (page 7).

Chapter seven of the National Development Plan focuses on placing South Africa in the world. The African continent remains central to South Africa's foreign policy. Through initiatives by the African Union and other regional blocs, South Africa continues to support peace and security and regional economic integration by providing peacekeeping missions on the continent. He emphasised the importance of South-South cooperation and North-South cooperation, highlighting South Africa-European Union (EU) relations and the EU as the biggest foreign investor in South Africa. The President said that South Africa's relations with the United States of America and Canada continued to strengthen, especially in the areas of economy, health, education, energy, water, safety and security, capacity-building and the empowerment of women.

We are at a point where South Africa is going through economic difficulty and the only solution is to find ways on how government, business sector and civil society could turn the economic situation around. In this issue, you will find that the our missions in Astana, Athens, Dakar, Finland and Rabat are committed to position South Africa as a destination for investment We have the responsibility as the custodian of foreign relations to identify new opportunities

and areas of cooperation in line with the five government priorities and the nine-point

We continue strengthening the bilateral and multilateral relations in the areas of the economy, health, education energy and

We continue with the vision of championing an African continent, which is prosperous, peaceful, democratic, nonracial, non-sexist and united and which aspires to a world that is just and equitable

We are a resilient country that can overcome the though domestic difficulties. I will leave you with the words of former President Nelson Mandela "When people are determined, they can overcome anything".

BS

Boipelo Sekhu





Africa's growth story is our growth story. Having been a part of this continent for over 150 years, our commitment to realising the dreams of Africa's people, communities, companies and countries is unquestionable. To move forward, choose the bank that calls Africa home. www.standardbank.com

Authorised financial services and registered credit provider (NCRCP15).
The Standard Bank of South Africa Limited (Reg. No. 1962/000738/06). Moving Forward is a trademark of The Standard Bank of South Africa Limited. SBSA 199002 01/15

**Standard Bank** 

> Also trading as Stanbic Bank

Moving Forward<sup>™</sup>

# South African Embassy in Dakar hosts business networking dinner

n Tuesday, 19 January 2016, the South African Embassy in Dakar, in collaboration with Brand South Africa, hosted a business networking dinner for Senegalese businesspeople. This was an occasion for Ambassador Abel Mxolisi Shilubane, who after inviting participants to see a promotional video and presentation on South Africa, to highlight the investment and trade opportunities of the country.

According to Ambassador Shilubane, Senegal and South Africa have been building relations for a long time and they are today called upon to beef up their cooperation. As such, he quoted the example of West Africa Farms (WAF) as a real example of success for South-South cooperation.

Furthermore, Ambassador Shilubane stressed the historical commonalities between South Africa and Senegal, as well as the importance of jointly working together for greater achievements, as the little the two countries are currently doing can be materialised extensively at a larger scale with the available range of opportunities

A case study on the WAF success story was thereafter presented by Mounirou Samb, Deputy Director of the said farm, who shared the experience of this agricultural project located in Louga. According to him, the policy being implemented by WAF, which operates in the horticultural field, especially the growing of radishes, is in line with the Plan Sénégal Emergent (PSE). "It's a socially-oriented project".

It was a good component of Senegalese agriculture, the PSE and of the programme for the re-launch and acceleration of the growth of Senegalese agriculture (Pracas), MounirouSamb indicated.

He said that WAF dug a 7,5-metre long canal that allowed the populations to cultivate during all seasons. "This created a social safety valve and contributed to the emergence of the local economy."

He welcomed the fact that "the populations are looking after their own affairs". Mr Samb is convinced that agro-industrialists can take inspiration from this model of success aimed "to help the populations to support themselves".

WAF is a success story thanks to a partnership with South Africa-a country with a lot of experience in the field of agriculture - and thanks to the exemplary and long-standing relations between the two countries. For Mr Samb, South-South cooperation can elevate the countries to the rank of emergent nations.

Taking the floor, Freddie Herselman, Economic Counsellor at the South African Embassy, also exposed the economic opportunities in South Africa. According to him, South Africa is the second-largest economy on the African continent. South Africa was among the 26 most industrialised nations of the world and ranked as the 27th-largest economy in the world, he said. "It's the gateway to the African continent", the Economic Counsellor further said while indicating that, in 2014, South Africa ranked 41st out of 189 countries in terms of business facilitation in the world.

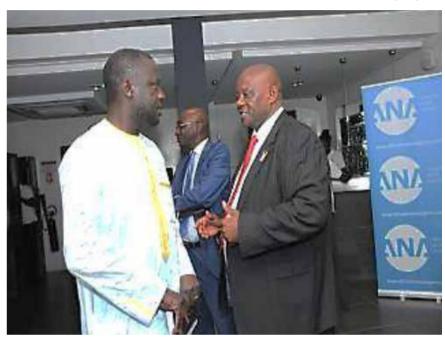
Mr. Herselman also listed the high level and quality of commodities and products available in South Africa, such as gold, diamond, copper, horticulral products, etc.

Lamine Guèye, the CEO of CSTT-AO and a Senegalese businessman established in South Africa, also shared his successful experience and encouraged the community of Senegalese businesspeople to further explore the South African market that has a big potential. He then gave examples of opportunities in the logistics and transport fields, as well as mining beneficiation, agriculture, energy, etc.

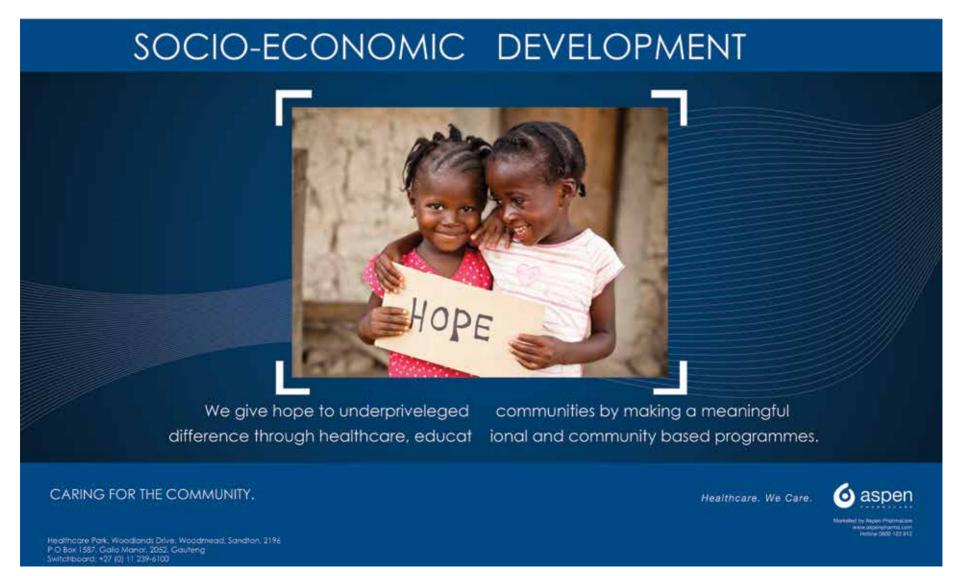
In his closing remarks Ambassador Shilubane thanked the participants for their time and keen interest in the South African market. He also seized that opportunity to introduce and praise the Senegalese company Win SA, a franchising entity, co-managed by Ibrahima Fall and Birama Diop, which is in partnership with the South African company, Soda King, for the processing and distribution of flavoured soft drinks. 5



Ambassador Shilubane addressing the guests







# Know our Head of Mission

#### I. Tell us about yourself

I am currently deployed to serve as South Africa's Ambassador to the State of Eritrea – a young Horn of Africa country on the Red Sea, which celebrates its 25th year of independence this year. Prior to my current posting, I was Professor at the University of South Africa and enjoyed chairing the African National Congress's National Executive Committee's Sudan Committee, as well as being part of its International Relations Policy Subcommittee. I also serve on the Board of the Institute for Global Dialogue. Since 2000, I have worked on and researched the Horn of Africa's international and political dynamics. I enjoy being in the space of analysis and implementing South Africa's international relations goals.

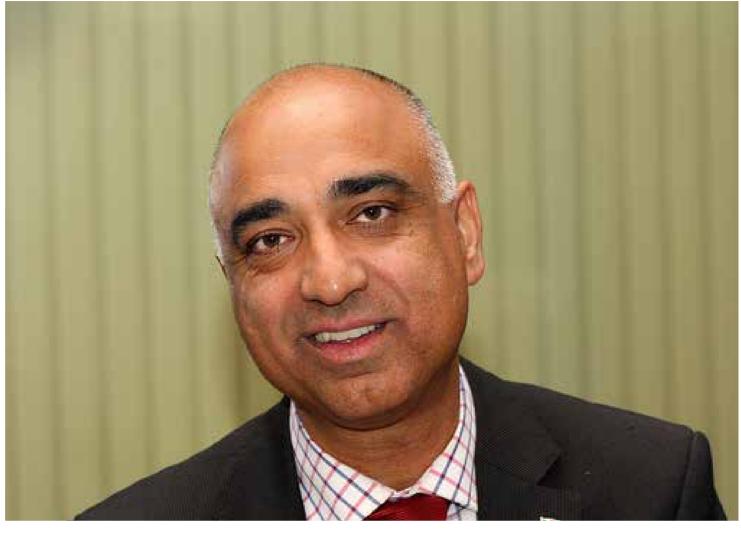
#### 2. What is your daily routine like?

In the morning, I attend to daily tasks at the Embassy with colleagues. Often this includes calling key ministers and players to advance South African economic interests, preparing for visiting South African delegations, implementing our programmes and meeting key personalities, which allow us to understand Eritrea better and to determine where mutual openings exist. I update DIRCO headquarters with regular reports, given the fluid war-footing situation. I attempt to schedule meetings with visitors from 11 am onwards. Afternoons and evenings often include attending official functions and meeting local ministers and fellow diplomatic colleagues.

Over weekends, there are many social functions, which allow us to better understand the nuances of Eritrean social dynamics. Meditation and exercise are a key part of my daily routine.

#### 3. What do you like about DIRCO?

I love listening to our veteran leaders who provide illumined insights into South Africa's foreign policy goals; the spirit of detailed teamwork, which allows the big picture to be implemented and for the DIRCO mosaic to appear in its splendour, with all its human challenges. Often it's that big collective



spirit that matters! The support of the East Africa business unit makes our Embassy work better.

#### 4. One thing that people at Head Office should know about your work

With the support of many colleagues, we managed in Eritrea to over the past four years advance key mining projects, including South Africa being the sole supplier of explosives in Eritrea's gold, copper and zinc sectors. South African companies have made us proud of their vanguard gold and copper infrastructure engineering. Advancing niche economic South African economic projects, in what may seem difficult countries, is possible!

#### 5. Favourite spot/restaurant?

In Asmara, I am fond of meetings at Admas Restaurant. In Tshwane, I like the Sheraton coffee shop.

Me eaquatur? Qui opta quis rerchil iandit adis sum qui dellupt atione pliquo volenderum in porerro et de re, voluptate nonseque gnitiasiment

#### **APPOINTMENTS: PROF. EDDY MALOKA APPOINTED CEO OF THE APRM**



retired from the Department of International Relations and Cooperation with effect from 1 April 2016.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Lord for health, ability and all the opportunities granted to me during my time at DIRCO. It was a most fulfilling career. From humble beginnings in a rural North West town, I could not have asked for more.

Apart from previous government service in the departments of tourism and water affairs and the Public Service Commission, I have had the privilege to serve in DIRCO since 1986.

I have served in our mission in Malawi during the historic elections in 1994. I was also privileged to be posted in Argentina, Japan and Zimbabwe. I have seen the departmental Head Office move from Ad Astra/Noordvaal buildings to Tulbagh Park and later to the OR Tambo Building. Wow, what a ride ...

I am particularly thankful and humbled by the trust, mentorship and encouragement I have received over the years from individuals in DIRCO, too many to mention. Your kind words and assistance are remembered even today. You may not have noticed the effect of your actions

at the time, but it served to give me direction in my career. This mentorship guided me to fulfill my career path, in spite of my own efforts at times to stubbornly pull in the wrong direction.

I have also been privileged to have worked with locally recruited staff at our embassies who have served our country with distinction. I salute your effort to keep the ever-changing stream of transferred officials informed, connected and enabled to do their job. And then, after four years, to start whole the process all over again.

I could not have achieved any of the above if it had not been for the constant support and encouragement of my wife, who had to sacrifice her own promising career to follow me on my travels. And all this while raising our two daughters who had their lives uprooted again and again. Despite the hardships they had to endure, the support from my family had been unwavering.

I think it is not always clear to state factually what one has achieved or obtained during one's career. I know it is expected at the end of the journey to be able to offer some pearls of wisdom. Well, I don't have any ...

For me, I can only say it had always been about the people. Every single one of them ... You have made the journey worthwhile. And, if I affronted someone, I apologise unconditionally. I never intended any disrespect or slight.

Thank you very much to all who have enriched my life with your kind consideration. I wish you all Godspeed.

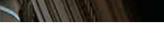
Regards,

Tielman.



**SPANISH** 

los símbolos nacionales de



El animal nacional

- La "Gacela Saltarina" o "Springbok" es nuestro animal nacional
- La selección oficial de Rugby se llama "Los Springboks"



**Springbok** 



El ave nacional

El pez nacional

La flor nacional

llama "Los

- La "Grulla azul" o "Grulla del Paraíso" es nuestro pájaro nacional
- Mide 1 metro de altura, es de color gris-azulado, y tiene plumas negras en la cola

El "Galjoen" o "Calderón Negro-

Dorado" es nuestro pez nacional Mide hasta 55 centímetros de largo.

Pesa hasta 7 kilogramos

La flor "Protea Rey" o "Protea Gigante" es nuestra flor nacional El equipo de Críquet sudafricano se

Proteas





Galjoen

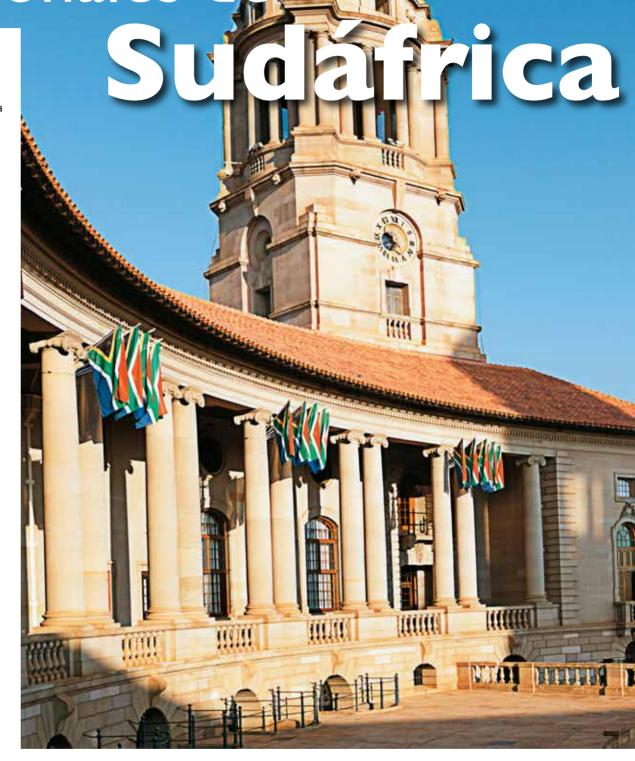


**Protea** 



El árbol nacional

- El "Palo Amarillo Real" es nuestro árbol nacional
- Mide hasta 40 metros de altura y 3 metros de ancho



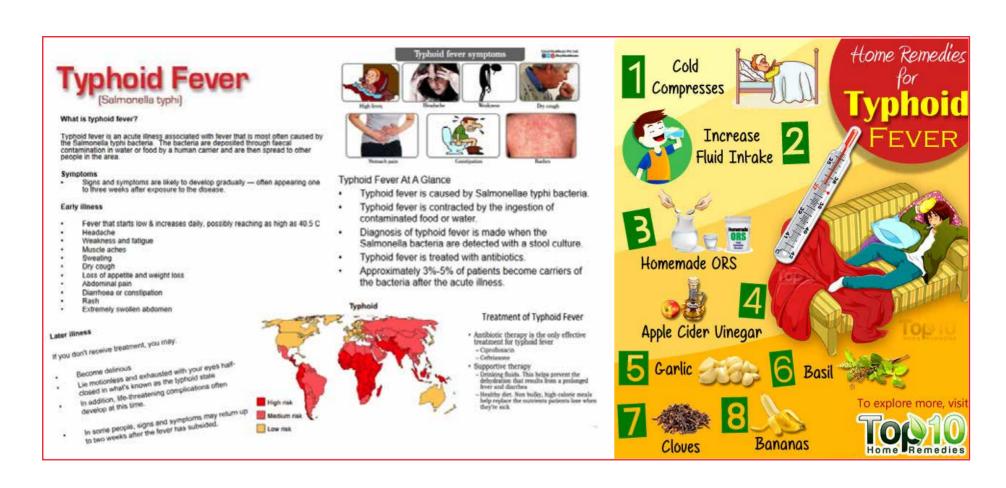
Vocabulario		
Bandera = Flag	Llamarse	Primera vez
	To be called	First time
Escudo de armas = Coat of Arms	Flamear To fly/flutter	Parte baja
		Lower part
Lema = Motto	Medir To measure	Nuestro/Nuestra
		Our (M) /(F)
Ave (Pájaro) = Bird	Pesar To weigh	De altura
		high (of height)
Pez = Fish (alive) Pescado= Fish (caught)	Significar To mean	De ancho
		wide (of width)
Flor = Flower	Presentar To present	De largo
		long (of length)
Árbol = Tree	Celebrar	Hasta
	To celebrate	Up to / Until
Libertad = Freedom	Tener	Negro-dorado
	To have	Golden-black
Equipo/Selección = Team (sports context)	Unirse	Negras
	To unite	Black colour (F) plural

### **TRANSNET**



delivering freight reliably







Department of International Relations and Cooperation continued to successfully deliver on that mandate, which was the pursuit of a better South Africa, contributing to a better and safer Africa in a better world

"South Africa continued to support peace and security and regional economic integration through participation in the African Union and the Southern African Development Community initiatives", President Zuma said during his address.

South Africa hosted the AMANI AFRICA II Field Training (19 October to 7 November 2015) to test its full operational capability as a prelude to the launch of the African Standby

"The South African National Defence Force represented the country bravely and remarkably well in peacekeeping missions on the continent. We are truly proud of our soldiers. They will be showcasing their

capability in Port Elizabeth from the 13th to the 21st of February, the celebration of Armed

The President further said: "We continued to assist sister countries in resolving their issues, for example, in Lesotho and South Sudan." South Africa led South African Development Community (SADC) electoral observer missions to Mozambique, Botswana, Namibia, Mauritius, Zambia and the Kingdom of Lesotho. That spoke of the successful election in Lesotho, which was facilitated by Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa under the auspices of SADC. The term of South Africa chairing the SADC Organ on Peace, Security and Defence Cooperation ended last year in August 2015

Also, the agreement by BRICS nations on the New Development Bank or BRICS Bank came into force and the bank is envisaged to approve its inaugural projects in April this year, the President stated.

"We participated in the India-Africa Summit as well as the Forum on Cooperation between Africa and China (FOCAC) as we strengthened these important partnerships", President Zuma said. South Africa hosted FOCAC in December 2015 and a number of agreements were concluded. China announced investments of



US\$50 billion in Africa of which South Africa will receive US\$10 billion for infrastructure. industrialisation and skills development

The President also alluded to North-South cooperation, specifically South Africa's engagements with the European Union (EU) as a bloc which is our largest trading partner and foreign investor. Over 2 000 EU companies operate within South Africa, creating over 350 000 jobs.

Furthermore, South Africa's relations with the United States of America and Canada continue to strengthen, especially in the areas of economy, health, education, energy, water, safety and security, capacity-building and the empowerment of women. "The renewal and expansion of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) provides a platform for the enhancement of industrialisation and regional integration. All outstanding issues around AGOA are being attended to", the President explained.

President Zuma concluded his SONA by saying that "tough global and domestic conditions should propel us to redouble our efforts, working together as all sectors. In this regard, it is important to act decisively to remove domestic constraints to growth. We cannot change the global economic conditions, but we can do a lot to change the local conditions." 👽

resident Jacob Zuma delivered his much-anticipated State of the Nation Address (SONA) in the National Assembly in Cape Town on

11 February 2016. The President addressed in detail how the Government, together with the business sector and civil society, could turn the economic situation around. The address touched on a variety of issues that affect all South Africans, particularly focusing on the implementation of the National



I'm Errol Lebea. I obtained my National Diploma: Internal Auditing from Vaal University of Technology in 2009, and I'm currently registered with the University of South Africa to pursue a Bachelor of Accounting Sciences in Internal Auditing. I am a dedicated person who loves and respect my duties and I'm attached to the Chief Directorate: Expenditure Management

I usually arrive at work at 6:45 and do my plan for the day Even though I know what to do on the day, I still have to do what is called a to-do-list and prioritise my work based on the

#### 3. How long have you been with DIRCO?

#### 4. What do you enjoy most about working for DIRCO?

I can say the environment is very good and I enjoy the family I have in Finance, where I spend most of my time. I enjoy the dedicated teams within the sporting codes. I put my heart and soul into my work, and the potential I have makes my work

#### 5. What do you like about your job?

My job is very interesting. My role is to assist the missions abroad with their accounts. I deal with missions' expenditure and process their accounts. I work with many people posted abroad, some of whom I have never even met.

#### 6. Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself

I'm fascinated about sport. I have joined the DIRCO sports clubs (volleyball and athletics). I have learned a lot about leadership during my term as chairperson of the DIRCO Volleyball Team in 2015/16 during which the team won the 2015 Southern African Development Community tournament trophy in Lesotho. I was also selected as the Deputy Public Relations Officer of the DIRCO Sports Council for 2015/16. As a road runner, I train every Monday to Thursday after work. I have participated in the 2015 Two Ocean Ultra Marathon (56 km) and many marathons. I will be part of the longest marathon in the world, the 2016 Comrades Marathon (approximately 90 km) 籠





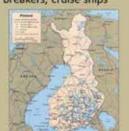




#### Finland

- \$22,900
- Lit. Rate- 100%
- 50,000 lakes left by glaciers
- Thousands of islands & bogs
- Forests cover 60% of land depression

 Major exports – TV's, cell phones, ice breakers, cruise ships



#### I. On top of the world

The city of Helsinki, Finland, is the northern-most South African Diplomatic Mission. It goes without saying that we are literally on top of world. We snuggly fit between Russia on the one side and Sweden and Norway on the other side. It also provides ease of access to Estonia via a ferry. Only three-and-a-half hours by train, you can go to the beautiful city of St Petersburg in Russia; once the capital of Russia and previously known as Leningrad. Two hours by boat to Tallinn, Estonia, provides a wonderful village atmosphere. If flying directly three hours to Tromsø in Norway you can go dog-sledding and even get a chance to see the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights).

#### 2. Fresh air

Living at sea level and with so many environmental protection laws, the air is fresh and brisk. Three are no more fossil fuels burnt in the city of Helsinki. All energy is generated by nuclear power plants. The Finns converted an old coal-fired generator in the city into a nuclear reactor but the mountain of coal outside the plant remains a reminder of how far they have come.

#### 3. Thousands of islands

Thirdly, is the access that one has to the sea and thousands of islands that surround Helsinki. During the summer months, a person can drive up and down the Gulf Stream until the early hours of the morning when an hour or two of sundown takes place. Yes, the sun literally goes down the horizon and then come back up again in a matter of approximately two hours. Or in winter



The Old Fortress on Suomenlinna isl

time, there is nothing so relaxing as to be able to walk between the islands. The sea is frozen up to 6 m deep, making it possible to skate on an ice rink and ski trail.

#### 4. Language

The language, although too difficult to learn, does use words which one can use. It is customary to greet everyone that you meet with the word "Moi", pronounced the same as the Afrikaans "mooi" but meaning - Hi!

#### 5. Geographical area

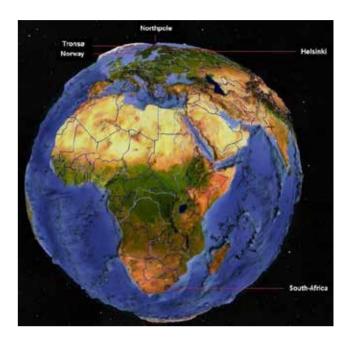
The city of Helsinki and its surrounding cities of Vantaa and Espoo all fall under one geographical area. Something similar to Pretoria, Midrand and Johannesburg but only smaller and closer together. The only difference is that there are only approximately 700 000 people living in this area. They have developed a spectacular system of public transport, including one metro line, a dozen tram lines and hundreds of bus routes. From anywhere in the city, you can use public transport to get around, and it is inexpensive.

The city, mainly in the suburbs, has an abundance of wildlife. Birds of every type and colour, red foxes, hares (or as we call them zombie rabbits) and our favourite little animal, the red tree squirrel, which is a protected species. When you live on the seashore like us, then we become like family to them, and you can name each

one according to their character.

#### 7. Tehnology

Finland is the origin of the Nokia Company. There are so many different phones, tablets and gadgets that the cost of data has become a minor issue. Your contracts include unlimited Wi-Fi and broadband data. No more than 50GB and you are a super user; here you have guaranteed minimum speeds on the lowrage phones of 20Mb/s to the upmarket phones where you can download at an astounding speed of almost 1GB/s. Internet connections provide very fast transfer rates.



#### 8. Wide variety of food

Eighth is the wide variety of foods and vegetables available, although some foods are limited during the winter season. Most importantly are some local dishes like Reindeer and brown bear (if you can afford it).

#### 9. Domesticated animals

There is an abundance of domesticated animals such as cats and especially dogs. One would think that they would dread having to go out into the snow. But instead, there is nothing like a good snow bath or snow ball fight (one way) with a dog. They think it is playing catch.

#### 10. Travel

Lastly, when returning to or flying outbound from Helsinki you only have to worry about the snow at your stopover destinations. Helsinki Vantaa Airport has not closed due to snow or bad weather in almost 30 years. So, you are guaranteed to arrive home and safe in Finland.



Helsinki City, Finland



# Globe at a glimpse



#### Annual Christmas Charity Bazaar held in Radisson. Astana

The seventh Annual Christmas Charity Bazaar was held on 6 December 2015 at the Radisson Hotel. All proceeds from the bazaar went to helping underprivileged children in the capital.

The Annual Charity Bazaar is one of the capital's major fundraising events and involves the international and diplomatic communities from about 60 foreign embassies and diplomatic missions in Astana. In addition to its charity mission, the event is also an opportunity for Astana's diplomatic missions to showcase the culture, food and traditional and modern handicrafts from their home countries.

The South African Embassy in Astana sold South African wines and liquors which were sold out in the first two hours. The Embassy also sold unique handicraft from nine African countries.



#### Bring a Child To Work

Over the past years, the South African Embassy in Athens has pursued educational and cultural projects as they are of vital importance in promoting South Africa's culture and diversity

In this respect, the Embassy initiated a school project called "Bring a Child to Work". The project serves as a career guide, providing motivation for students to better identify themselves with careers in the public sector or related fields.

Othisi School had the opportunity to visit the South African Embassy and learn more on how an embassy functions on a daily basis. The Head of Mission and Embassy's diplomats welcomed the students, provided a brief background about South Africa and answered questions asked by students. By the end of the visit, students had a clear picture of South Africa and its presence in the Hellenic Republic.





## South African Embassy in Rabat participates in 2015 Diplomatic Circle Bazaar





Every year, the Diplomatic Circle in Rabat (an organisation made up of the spouses of the heads of missions of the diplomatic representations in Rabat and a few local cultural institutions) organises a popular bazaar in cooperation with the Royal Protocol of Morocco. The objective is to raise funds for a good cause, usually a charity in the social field.

The South African Embassy in Rabat flew the South African flag high with a colourful stand showcasing a wide variety of South African products for sale such as wines, Amarula, Rooibos tea, spices and biltong (made by a local South African farmer), ostrich egg shells, beaded items, including Zulu love letters and key rings, as well as a number of books such as Nelson Mandela's Long Walk to Freedom, South African recipes and children's books.

The Embassy stand was well located and when the Royal guest, Her Royal Highness (HRH) Princess Lalla Meryem, the eldest sister of King Mohammed VI, was shown on a tour of the bazaar, the South African stand was her starting point. HRH showed interest in the South African products which were briefly explained to her by Vibeke Figgins, the Charge d'Affaires' spouse. HRH noted the Zulu love letters in particular and she was therefore presented with a parcel of these together with a small beaded Ndebele doll.

The bazaar was an opportunity to hand out promotional material, including tourism brochures and dvds to the interested public. Visitors to the bazaar were also able to enjoy some traditional South African food at the International Food Court as the South African diplomats and their families prepared some bobotie and koeksisters for sale. Biltong and koeksisters were also handed out at the stand itself to give people a little taste of what South Africa has to offer in the culinary sense. The food items went down very well, proving that our local is very definitely "lekker". A basket of South African products was donated as a gift for the tombola and many tickets were sold as all were eager to win the prize.

The profits of the sales at the South African stand, an amount close to Moroccan Dirham 6 000, were handed over to the Diplomatic Circle and will form part of the amount handed over to the chosen charity.

The bazaar, which was visited by several thousand people, provided the Embassy with a useful platform for "public diplomacy" through the promotion of South Africa as a modern, advanced and diversified economy as well an excellent tourist destination to the Moroccan public as well as the international community in Rabat. It can be noted that the Embassy also supported the organising of the Bazaar as Mrs Figgins played an important role in the Organising Committee.



# Diplomatic Golf Day

DIRCO in partnership with BMW held a Diplomatic Golf Day on 17 March 2016 at Serengeti Golf and Wildlife Estate in Kempton





international relations & cooperation

Department: International Relations and Cooperation REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA