

# IT'S YOUR

Internal Newsletter of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation

# VOICE

ubuntu diplomat



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# Guest Editor's Letter

## Dear Diplomats,



It is a pleasure to present you with the eighth edition of *It's Your Voice*, which will not disappoint you.

After going through it, I can vouch that it is, indeed, an unputdownable read. I wish to particularly draw the readers' attention to the article on Ambassador Gabriel Setlhoke. Reading the article will definitely make you want to travel through South Sudan.

Yes, South Sudan is the newest African state, gaining independence in 2009; and Yes, Ambassador Setlhoke is our first diplomatic representative there in various capacities to date. I quipped with him not a while ago that he should be deployed permanently there since his experience in the bush and "university of life" had prepared him adequately for that role.

After going through this article, which I recommend to readers to start with, you will get a sense of why Africa is and should continue to be the heart of South Africa's foreign policy. Let me stir a controversy and conclude: You are not yet a full diplomat until you have served in Africa.

The recent Diplomatic Fair at the Union Buildings took me down memory lane as it highlighted the rich tapestry of African and other continents' cultures and traditions.

Ke nna

"Sentsho sa MaThamaga phaswa ya go bota bogale."

*BT*

Bingo Thamaga



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"What's the key to success in the Africa-China corridor?"

"A formidable partnership."



Standard Bank

Standard Bank is proud to partner with ICBC in powering FOCAC, the largest Africa-China conference this year. Standard Bank's deep African expertise combined with ICBC's global financial reach will create new opportunities.



**DIRCO Open Day  
took place on  
23 October 2015.**

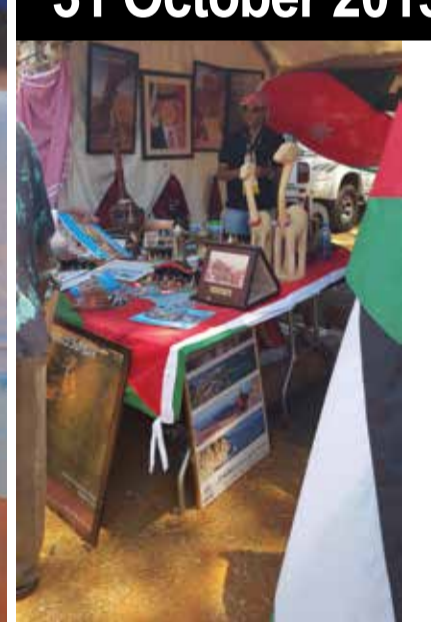


**Congratulations to  
DTRD for winning  
the best stall and all  
colleagues who were  
winners on the day.**



# DIPLOMATIC FUN FAIR 2015

31 October 2015



## Stalls



## Cultural Performances



## Prize-Giving Gala Dinner



Following the Diplomatic Fair during a prize-giving ceremony at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research International Convention Centre, awards were presented to the:

Most Informative Stall: China  
 Most Appetising Stall: Angola  
 Most Interactive Stall: Colombia  
 Most Entertaining Stall: Botswana

Most Creative Stall: Jordan  
 Most Authentic Stall – the Mayor's Award: Cllr Kgositso Ramokgopa: Jamaica  
 Most Authentic Stall – Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane Award: Eritrea.



## OR TAMBO Memorial Lecture

The Oliver and Adelaide Tambo Foundation was officially launched on 24 October 2011 during which President Jacob Zuma gave the Inaugural Lecture. In his speech, he mentioned that: "The values of unity, selflessness, sacrifice, collective leadership, humility, honesty, discipline, hard work, internal debates, constructive criticism, self-criticism and mutual respect, encapsulate what President Tambo stood for". It's with these words in mind that the foundation aims to address issues of socio-economic upliftment and advancement, education, women's empowerment and the promotion of arts, culture and heritage initiatives

In this regard, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) was invited by the Oliver and Adelaide Tambo Foundation to co-host the fifth Annual Oliver Tambo Memorial Lecture, which took place on 27 October 2015 at the OR Tambo Building.

Held annually on OR Tambo's birthday, the event was previously co-hosted with the OR Tambo International Airport and the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality. The foundation has also in the past partnered with DIRCO on several OR Tambo-related events, including the OR Tambo Memorial Lecture in 2012.

Furthermore, the foundation is aware that the department, in light of having been named after one of our honourees, has been celebrating the OR Tambo Month for the past four years. The foundation was therefore of the view that this event would be the perfect platform for DIRCO to profile itself within the realm of the OR Tambo values of professionalism, patriotism, integrity and passion – while simultaneously promoting the good work of the foundation.

The concept of this lecture was to talk about Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu and Nelson Mandela being the architects of democracy. This year's lecture was a bit different than the traditional lecture. It had a panel of three, namely, Mac Maharaj the former Presidential Spokesperson; Dr Brigalia Bam, former Head of the Independent Electoral Commission; and Reverend Frank Chikane, former Director-General in the office of the President. They each shared their personal experience of these leaders and they gave the audience a personal insight into the personalities and leadership of the three incredible heroes of our nation. This was followed by a question-and-answer session. 🌐



# Know our Heads of Mission

## Tell us about yourself

My name is Gabriel Phemelo Sethoke, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of South Africa to the Republic of South Sudan. My accreditation to this newest country in the world has been from 2010. The initial posting was as Consul General for two years. Upon establishment of official diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2011, after declaration of independence from the Sudan, the Consulate was upgraded to a fully established Embassy. The Consul General was then appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and I have served in the position for more than two years. Challenges that South Sudan is faced with have been opportunities of political interaction; continuity with the leadership of the ruling party, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM); and harnessing the fraternal political relations that South Africa accorded South Sudan even prior to the signing of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Sudan and South Sudan.

## What do you like about your current assignment?

My current assignment has its own intricacies – both challenging and interesting. The challenges are also opportunities. Initially being posted to South Sudan was a continuity of engagements that I was responsible for while I was still at Head Office before declaration of independence on 9 July 2011. These engagements were also complemented during my posting to Kenya with robust interaction with the top leadership of the SPLM/Army. After completing my tour of duty in Kenya, I continued managing the then Southern Sudan, today South Sudan.

What humbled me most was the facilitation of capacity-and institution-building for the SPLM leadership and officials from different departments. Cooperation and support from the South African Government were and are still unmeasurable to the Government of South Sudan and its people. Our government's contribution must be attributed to our ministers of the then Foreign Affairs and now International Relations

and Cooperation, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, who also chaired and still chairs the South Sudan Post-Conflict and Reconstruction and Development with the support of their directors-general, Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba, and Ambassador Jerry Mathew Matjila, respectively.

What I like about South Sudan is the fact that I worked on the country before cessation and independence from the Sudan. Being part of such a transition, accords one a unique opportunity to continue with already existing developmental projects. Because of the long-established relations with the leadership of the SPLM and Government, bilateral relations between the two countries could be consolidated. Witnessing a country's development from nothing to become one of the fastest-growing cities in the world, until the events of 15 December 2013, which catapulted it back on its development was quite an experience.

Representing one's country abroad and the lack of accessibility to government functionaries could have a negative impact on one's performance. The same could not be said about South Sudan. Accessibility to government ministers and officials for South African diplomats accredited to the Republic of South Sudan is unbelievable.

Currently, the country is faced with a protracted political crisis that started on 15 December 2013. It needed an immediate political intervention to prevent the country from returning to a full-scale civil war. Intervention from the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD), which later became IGAD-Plus, managed to tailor an agreement between the Government and the opposition.

South Africa played an important role to find a political solution for South Sudan and the Embassy fully coordinated interventions and closely worked with the Special Envoy's Task Team based in South Sudan. Championing the Arusha Reunification of the SPLM was a milestone. Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa's and Secretary-General of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), Amb Abdulrahman Kinana's, political interventions cannot be overemphasised. Experiencing, coordinating and

participating in some of the deliberations contribute to what I like about my current assignment.

I should also recognise the privilege of having worked and continue to work with colleagues who have overlooked the hard conditions in South Sudan and come to serve their country. The level of social cohesion among colleagues also makes our work easy.

## How does your typical day look like?

The fluid and dynamic political situation and its manifestations dictate activities. South Africa's involvement in assisting South Sudan to find itself and have peace, necessitates that every morning line-function officials consult to discuss political, security and economic developments. During that collective, the day's agenda would then be



Ambassador Gabriel Phemelo Sethoke



Aerial view of Juba

worked out as to which meetings, invitations and political consultations with United Nations (UN) agencies, political parties and embassies are to be attended to and which responses from Head Office should be addressed as a matter of urgency and importance.

The Embassy and the Special Envoy's Task Team are on a daily basis in contact with government officials and the SPLM office bearers to discuss issues pertaining to the SPLM Arusha Reunification Agreement, led by the Tripartite Committee consisting of South Africa, Tanzania, SPLM/Juba, SPLM In Opposition (SPLMIO) and Former Political Detainees (FDs). The team is seized with engaging other political role players across the political divide, the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and TROIKA (Norway, United Kingdom and the United States of America) ambassadors accredited to South Sudan to explain the Arusha Agreement and its complementarity to the IGAD-led mediation.

Much as it is repetitive, it is also interesting to make people understand that the Arusha is only engaged to reunify the party while governance issues are left to the IGAD process.

Now that peace is on the horizon for South Sudan, one is looking forward to now engage the authority on developmental projects.

## Are there achievements that you wish to highlight?

Earlier, I mentioned the developmental projects that South Africa has offered to South Sudan

dating back to 2003. Through the interdepartmental coordination committees, departments had bilateral capacity and institution-building projects that to date have capacitated more than 1 600 government officials. DIRCO's intervention trained South Sudanese diplomats who most of them have been ambassadors across the world. Many other departments have also been involved with South Sudan on a range of projects.

The outstanding milestone is the well-mediated Arusha Reunification Agreement that allayed fears of the unknown while South Africa's participation in the IGAD-Plus mediation process was another achievement.

## What do you like about your country of accreditation?

South Sudan is unique. It is the newest country in the world. The country is equidistant between Cape Town and Cairo. Though South Sudan has not as yet officially become a member of the Liberation Movement, in principle it qualifies and it is expected to become a member very soon.

The country is still on a scale of least developed regardless of the minerals it is endowed with.

Collaboration between DIRCO, the Department of Trade and Industry and Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry has seen trade and investment visits to South Sudan. Investment opportunities are available in the country and the Government's interest and confidence it has in South African investments and eagerness to do business with South Africa say a lot. 🌐



People celebrating South Sudan's independence in 2011

# Frequently asked questions

**What is Ubuntu Radio?**

Ubuntu Radio is a product of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO). DIRCO, through the Branch: Public Diplomacy, launched Ubuntu Radio in October 2013 – Africa's first government online radio station.

**Where is the station situated?**

The station is broadcasting daily from the fully-fledged production and broadcasting studios situated on the 3rd floor, Branch: Public Diplomacy, DIRCO Head Office.

**Who owns the station?**

The station is fully owned and controlled by DIRCO.

**What is the station's vision?**

The vision of the station is to provide a platform for news and dialogue on South Africa's foreign policy position and objectives and to tell African stories from an African perspective. It aims to create a fair and balanced representation of the work of the department and government as a whole; and to clearly and consistently present the policies of the Government of South Africa.

**What kind of programmes are featured on Ubuntu Radio?**

The station's broadcast format is talk radio and it

also features live broadcasts of major events. As a government online radio station, it also aims to provide foreign policy news to a South African and global audience. The programmes are produced by Public Diplomacy staff and external contributors.

**Why a government radio station?**

Although reliable news sources exist, there are times when the news of the day is littered with inaccuracies, misrepresentations of government or information that is factually incorrect. DIRCO seeks to address this by providing a platform for the department and government to proactively communicate news and information opposed to being reactive.

**What about other departments with an international mandate?**

Other government departments and institutions with an international mandate are participating in the programming with the provision of content/updates, such as the departments of tourism and trade and industry and Brand South Africa.

**How do I access Ubuntu Radio?**

It is available on the Internet ([www.ubunturadio.com](http://www.ubunturadio.com)) and you can also download the application for mobile devices and smart phones. It is also available on **DSTV Audio Bouquet Channel 888**

## UBUNTU RADIO TURNED TWO IN OCTOBER!



## PRESENTERS



# UBUNTU RADIO

*Birthday*

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Public Diplomacy  
in action

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**DStv**<sup>TM</sup>  
AUDIO CHANNELS CHANNEL 888

**STUDIO NUMBER**  
**+27 (0) 12 329 2729**



UbuntuRadioZA



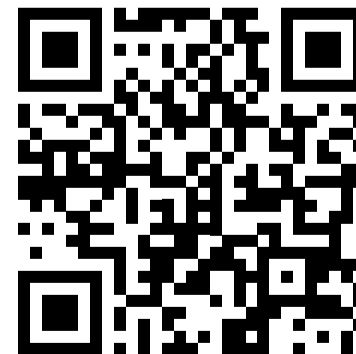
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# Globe at a glimpse



## Sweden-South Africa BNC hold in Stockholm



Minister Mokonyane signing a Memorandum of Understanding on Water Resources Management with her counterpart, Asa Romson, Minister for Climate and the Environment and Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden

The South African Embassy in Stockholm facilitated the Ninth Binational Commission (BNC) between South Africa and Sweden, that took place in Stockholm from 19 – 20 October 2015.

The South African delegation was led by Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, which included Minister Nomvula Mokonyane and Pravin Gordhan, and four deputy ministers, Nomaindiya Mfeketo (DIRCO), Mzwandile Masina (dti); Prof. Hlengiwe Mkhize (Telecommunications and Postal Services) and Mduduzi Manana (Higher Education & Training), and various senior officials and a business delegation.

The meeting reaffirmed the historic ties of friendship and solidarity between South Africa and Sweden, which date back to the struggle for peace, democracy and justice in South Africa. The unequivocal support that the Swedish people gave to the people of South Africa laid a firm foundation for future cooperation between the two countries. At a



Deputy President Ramaphosa and Deputy Prime Minister Asa Romson arriving at the Swedish Foreign Ministry for the opening of the Ninth Binational Commission between South Africa and Sweden

bilateral level, discussions focused on trade and investment, skills development and training as well as job creation, among others. At a multilateral level, discussions included cooperation in the implementation of the sustainable development goals, reform of the global governance institutions, United Nations and African Union, peace-building efforts and social cohesion.

## South African shines abroad

The South African Embassy staff in Greece recently received 19-year-old Greek-South African basketball player, Nthaoeng Anastasia (Zoe) Nixana Mosana, a member of the Athinaikos AS Virona Basketball Team since 2011.

Ambassador Marthinus van Schalkwyk welcomed Zoe and her parents to the South African Embassy, congratulated her on her achievements and wished her all the best for her future career. He furthermore mentioned that as South Africans we were proud to have talented youth who excelled in their careers and as an Embassy we would further encourage and support her.

Zoe Nixana was born in Johannesburg but was raised and studied and lived in Greece.

Zoe displayed an interest and talent in basketball from a very young age. Her talent and ethics rewarded her with the opportunity to play for Athinaikos AS Virona Women's Basketball Team, a team which has a place



Ambassador Marthinus van Schalkwyk with Nixana Mosana

in the *Book of Guinness World Records* with straight wins from 2008 to 2012. Zoe was selected to play for the Greek U20 National Woman Basketball Team and she participated in Montenegro at the FIBA EUROPE Championship from 2 to 12 July 2015 where the team won the silver medal.

## BLOOMin for Independent Women

Against the backdrop of Tokyo Fashion Week, the Bloomin for Independent Women event took place on 14 October. Following the inaugural event in March 2015, which was held at the Official Residence of the Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa, the newly opened Isetan Salone store in Tokyo Midtown, provided the venue.

The event is an initiative of the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa in collaboration with the fashion industry and the women ambassadors accredited to Japan. It aims to promote women in the fashion industry in Japan as well as highlight the issue of sanitary pads for girls from developing countries.

According to UNICEF, one out of 10 African schoolgirls skips school or drops out of school entirely due to a lack of sanitary products and poor access to proper sanitation. This critical unavailability of sanitary products in developing countries is a major barrier to education for girls of schoolgoing age. The inability to effectively manage their monthly cycles contributes to absences of up to four to five school days each month, equating to as much as 20% of the academic year intentionally skipped. Eventually, many of these girls drop out of school entirely, increasing their likelihood of teen pregnancies, health complications and early marriage, and further limiting their future career and economic opportunities.

The evening was an opportunity to link fashion and girls around the world to make a change. Money raised at the event went to the Lunapdas organisation that produces Pads4Girls, which provides washable sanitary pads and underwear.

The theme was red, a colour that represents energy, passion and action. Music, fashion and make-up demonstrations were also part of the evening's entertainment.



South African Ambassador Mohau Pheko welcoming the audience



The colour red was reflected in the food and Pinotage wine from South Africa



Ntombi Msibi, South African Embassy



Ambassadors with the models



From right: Ambassadors from Honduras, Tonga, Uganda, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rwanda, Zambia and the Head of Mission from Madagascar



Guests mingle with Suzy Menkes of Conde-Nast, Yuko Ohara of Women's Empowerment for Fashion and Akiko Shinoda of Japan Fashion Week Organisation

# Arrive Alive in 2016

## Planning the journey and rules of the road

- Obey, the rules of the road and carry you driver's licence with you.
- Plan the route to your holiday destination and give yourself enough time to reach the destination.
- Use a GPS navigation tool or a road atlas to plan your trip in advance.
- For peace of mind, try to stick to major routes or toll roads – If you are going to travel on the "back roads", identify the towns along the route and what the distance is between them.
- Do not get stranded without fuel – Always plan ahead where you will refuel.
- Plan rest stops along the way and if you are travelling with kids, it is a great way to let them know when and where you will be stopping.
- Always ensure that a friend or family member, who is not travelling with you, is aware of the route that you are planning to travel. Ideally, you should also update them on your progress of the journey and let them know when you have reached your destination safely.
- Try to avoid driving after dark if possible.
- Expect others not to be as obedient to the law as yourself.

## Vehicle fitness and roadworthiness

- Make sure that your vehicle is in a roadworthy condition before departure.
- All lights and indicators, windscreen wipers, brakes, steering, exhaust system and tyres should be carefully examined for faults.
- Take your vehicle for a full check before embarking on your holiday travels.
- Do not overload your vehicle.

## Driver fitness and fatigue

- Have a good rest before you embark on your journey.
- Take safety breaks every two hours or 200 km.
- Do not drink and drive – If you intend to consume alcohol, make alternative arrangements so you will not be behind the wheel.
- Remain alert at all times and avoid driver distractions such as cellular conversations, texting, etc!
- Be responsible with seatbelt wearing – Always wear your seatbelt and see that everyone in the car is wearing theirs.
- South African law requires each passenger being transported in a motorvehicle to make

use of the seatbelts and strap themselves in. It is the driver's responsibility to make sure all passengers are strapped in remain strapped in while travelling. It is a criminal offence for an adult to allow a child younger than 14 years to travel unrestrained in a vehicle equipped with seatbelts or a car safety seat.

- Infants and children under the age of 12 should travel in the back seat of a vehicle and should be buckled up, either a car's seat, booster seat or using the seatbelt, depending on the age and weight of the child.
- Infants between 0 months and one year of age, or up to 10 kg in weight, should travel in a rear-facing car seat in the back of a car. In the event

of an accident, the impact will be on the seat and not on the infant.

## Emergency stops and accidents

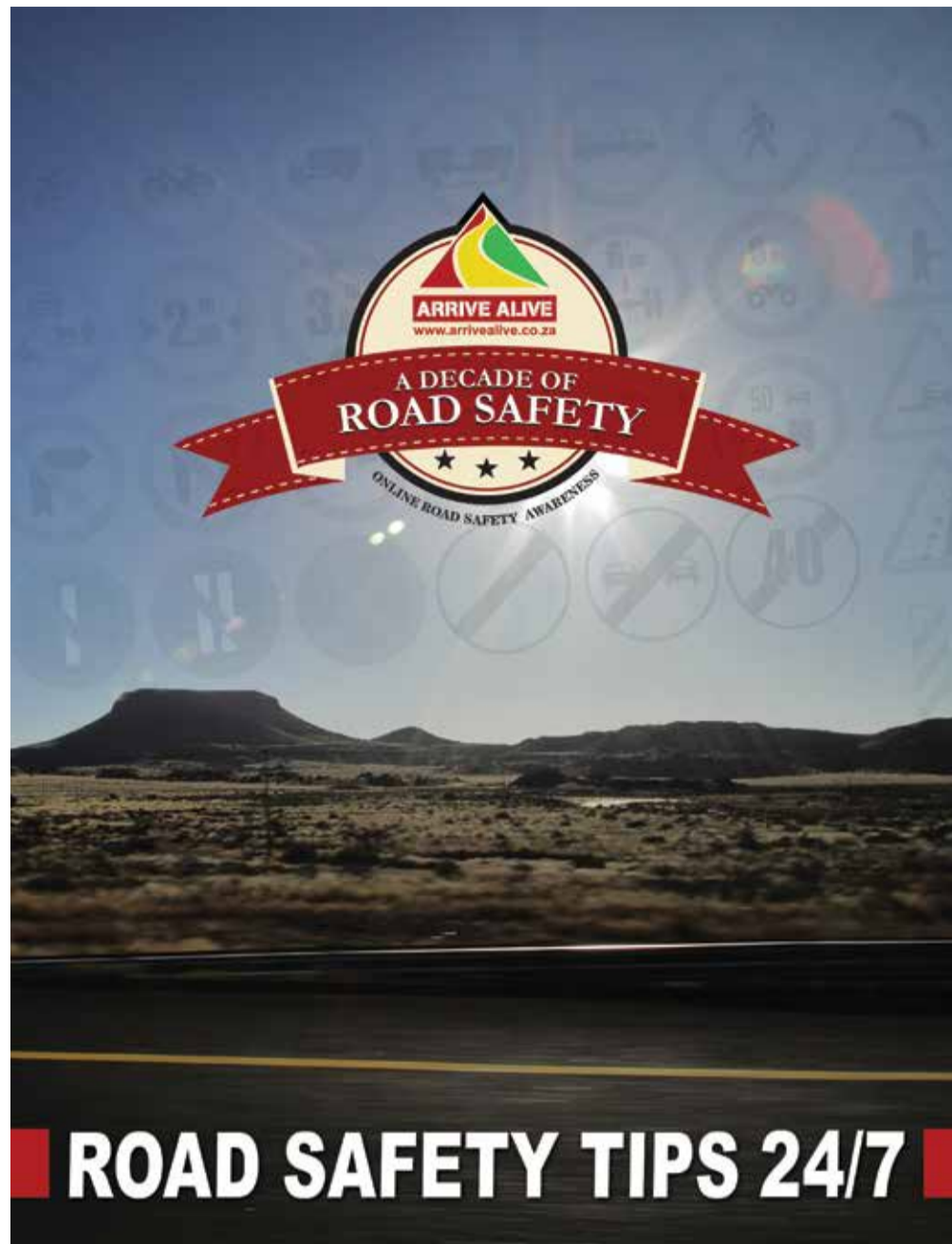
- Try to avoid stopping on the highway, rather take the next off-ramp to stop in a more public area where you can stretch, refresh yourself and/or take a break from driving; and have numbers for roadside assistance and other emergencies close at hand or saved on your cellphone, so that you are well-prepared for any eventuality.
- Keep essential roadside equipment with you as many breakdowns are caused by relatively minor problems. Items include a first-aid

kit, tow rope, warning triangles, torch and fire extinguisher.

- In the event of an accident, determine the extent of the damage or injuries and assess whether or not medical attention is required.
- Take a picture with a camera or mobile phone and file an accident report with the police as you will need a case number for your insurance company to file a claim. Remember to get names, addresses, telephone numbers and ID numbers of everyone involved in the accident

Share these suggestions with your family and friends – And follow them 24/7 every day of the year!

[Advice from [www.arrivealive.co.za](http://www.arrivealive.co.za)]



## Where do I report bad driving?

National Traffic Call Centre Number: 0861 400 800

Assist emergency response units by:

- ensuring they have information on hand when calling – accurate address details and nature of the incident
- landmarks are useful and if no street names exist, agree on a meeting area at a specific landmark
- allowing emergency vehicles right of way to respond to the emergencies and giving way timeously
- allowing access to the scene of the incident and patient/s
- sending someone to meet the vehicles and ensure that security at entrance points are made aware of emergencies in complexes
- switching on some outside lights if incident is at night
- clearing access routes and lock away any dangerous or vicious domestic animals.

## Know the emergency numbers

Police: 10111  
Ambulance: 10177  
Emergency: 112  
ER24: 084 124  
Netcare: 082 911

## Help is at hand!

Road safety information on your mobile phone – [www.arrivealive.mobi](http://www.arrivealive.mobi)

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T's & C's apply



54  
IN 2015

SANDTON SUN

PALAZZO

BEVERLY HILLS

SUNCOAST  
TOWERS

INTERCONTINENTAL  
HOTELS & RESORTS

Southern Sun  
HOTELS

Southern Sun  
RESORTS

SUN  
SQUARE

Garden  
Court

stayeasy

SUN 1

INTERCONTINENTAL  
HOTELS & RESORTS

Shepherds Tree Game Lodge, Pilanesberg Game Reserve, North West



Protea Zebula Lodge, Bela Bela, Limpopo



Shamwari Game Reserve, Garden Route, Eastern Cape



Big-Five safaris in South Africa are a must-do for anyone fascinated by wildlife. Big Five refers to buffalo, elephant, lion, leopard and rhino and the term comes from the animals considered most dangerous to hunt. Now the thrill comes from photographing them in their natural habitat. 🌍

uKhahlamba-Drakensberg



South Africa's uKhahlamba-Drakensberg houses a treasure trove of an estimated 35 000 examples of San rock paintings, is home to protected plant and animal species, and contains a high-altitude, RAMSAR-accredited wetland system.

Klein Waterval Riverside Lodge



South Africa's winelands produced the first local wines in 1659. Since then, the industry has gone from strength to strength; and it's not hard to see why. The climate, cooling winds, soil and expertise are the perfect ingredients for creating wine.

Winelands cycling



**international relations & cooperation**

Department:  
International Relations and Cooperation  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**