



**EMBASSY OF SOUTH AFRICA
RUSKA 65, 100 00 PRAGUE 10
NEWSLETTER - October 2018 (No. 10)**

WORD BY THE AMBASSADOR



Dear friends of the South African Embassy, we wish to share with you some of the highlights we as an Embassy experienced during the month of October 2018. A standout event was the visit early in the month by Ms Ntokozo Langa, representing South African Tourism, at a seminar arranged with South African Airways. The event, which was held at the Prague ZOO included prominent travel agents and tour operators based in Prague and was used to promote our beautiful country and its people as a preferred tourist destination for Czech citizens. We are also very excited to learn about the positive growth in tourism figures for Czechs visiting to South Africa to enjoy and experience our different cultures, wild life, exquisite wines and to play a round of golf on one of our world class golf courses!

This month we also celebrated the birthday of our Ambassador HE Ms Ribbon Mosholi on the 23rd of October. Ambassador, we all wish you all of the best for the year ahead.

We trust you will find our newsletter of interest.

Johan Oberholzer, Counsellor, on behalf of Ambassador NR Mosholi.

Ambassador Mosholi celebrating her birthday in Pretoria



EMBASSY NEWS

Farewell Reception for outgoing Mayor of Prague

Prior to the Czech municipal elections at the beginning of the month, Mr Johan Oberholzer attended on the behalf of H.E. Ambassador Mosholi a farewell reception given by Ms Adriana Krnáčová, now former Mayor of Prague. The event organized to greet the Diplomatic Corps for the last time was held on the evening of October 3rd at the Mayor's residence in the centre of Prague.



South African Tourism Presentation





Ms Ntokozo Langa and Ms Michaela Karpíšková at the College of Tourism in Prague

Our Embassy, in cooperation with the South African Tourism and South African Airways, was proud to organize a South African Tourism Presentation, which – as a huge success – became the main and most important South African tourism promotion event of the season. Ms Ntokozo Langa, Embassy Liaison Official for SA Tourism gave presentations on the 4th October both at the College of Tourism of the Czech Republic and at the main venue of the event – at the famous Prague ZOO. The presentation was well attended by several tour operator representatives and travel agency employees.



Mr Johan Oberholzer making welcome remarks at the South African Tourism Presentation at the Prague ZOO



Mr Ncongwane, Mr Oberholzer, Ms Adamcova – MFA and Mr Mahlangu at the SA Tourism Presentation at the Prague ZOO

Ms Madiba and Mr Oberholzer with Ms Heather Crowther



Mr C and Ms Langa with College of Tourism director Mr Libor Baštl



Travel agency representatives at the Prague ZOO



Meeting with airline representatives

In order to plan other upcoming events organized by the joint efforts of the South African Embassy in Prague and the airline representatives, Mr Oberholzer and Mr Ncongwane have met Ms Tereza Prokúpková, South African Airways Representative and Ms Kristýna Hajnová, Qatar Airways Representative for a business lunch on October 11th.



Anniversary Exhibition

Ms Madiba and Mr Mahlangu attended an exhibition titled “Touches of Statehood” held on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of Czechoslovakia – one of the biggest national celebrations both in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. The exhibition took place on October 18th at the venues of the Prague Castle and on display were various presentations, artifacts and objects illustrating



Ms Madiba at the Anniversary Photo Exhibition at the Prague Castle



Mr Mahlangu admiring a car made at the dawn of the 20th century

the establishment of a state based on democratic principles.

National Day Receptions

Many countries’ National Day and Anniversary receptions took place in the month of October. Among the ones attended by Mr Johan Oberholzer on the behalf of H.E. Ambassador Mosholi were the National Day of Spain on October 12th, the 99th Anniversary of Independence of Afghanistan on October

16th. The Hungarian National Day was held on October 19th.



Mr Oberholzer and Ms Langa at the South African Embassy



Centennial Celebrations

One of the highlights of this year’s national celebrations was the occasion of the Czech National Day, accompanied with the festival for the 100th Anniversary of Czechoslovakia. Prague dominated for the

past couple of days as a center for arts, exhibitions and galleries. The festive days culminated at the end of the month, especially during the weekend, on October 27th and 28th. Both days Mr Oberholzer, on the behalf of Ambassador Mosholi, attended official events organized by the Office of the President of the Czech Republic – a meeting with the Diplomatic Corps and a ceremony including presentations of National Decorations of the Czech Republic.

EMBASSY NEWS



Mr Johan Oberholzer greeting the President of the Czech Republic Mr Miloš Zeman

The SA Embassy welcomed a special guest from Johannesburg – Ms Ntokozo Langa, Embassy Liaison Official for SA Tourism, who was visiting central Europe for the tourism presentations. While in Prague, Ms Langa was kind enough to pay a visit at the Embassy as well as at the Ambassador’s Residence and updated our knowledge giving the Embassy Staff a briefing on the latest tourism trends.



Mr Ncongwane and Ms Langa



Mr Ncongwane, Ms Langa, Mr Oberholzer and Dr. Phil Pretorius

SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS



HEADS OF MISSION URGED TO LEAD INVESTMENT DRIVE

President Cyril Ramaphosa has urged South African ambassadors to lead the investment drive in the countries where they are posted.

“This Heads of Mission Conference therefore takes place at an important moment, for it is you, our diplomats, who must play a pivotal role in driving the message that South Africa is open for business,” said President Ramaphosa on Tuesday.

The Heads of Mission conference, hosted by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), took place from Monday, 21 October 2018, until Thursday, 25 October, in Pretoria.

It was held under the theme “A New Dawn: Inclusiveness of South Africa’s foreign policy which aims to promote a better South Africa, Africa and world”.

The biennial conference brought together the heads of South Africa’s diplomatic missions abroad to assess national, regional, continental and global trends and dynamics, and to determine a strategy to be

implemented in line with South Africa’s foreign policy vision and mission.

The conference also serves as a platform for South Africa’s diplomats to be briefed about progress on government’s programmes and plans.

President Ramaphosa’s call on ambassadors to rally investors in their designated countries comes as South Africa gears up for the Investment Conference held on Thursday, 25 October.

“It is our missions abroad that are leading our Economic Diplomacy, that need to ensure that the outcomes of the conference are conveyed around the world, and they are responsible for assisting the expansion of trade and investment links with partner countries,” said President Ramaphosa.

SA positioned as fertile ground for investment

The President pushed investment from all corners of the globe to the South African economy as the key to addressing the country’s triple challenge of unemployment, poverty and inequality.

To address these challenges, President Ramaphosa said regaining public and investor trust held the key to unlock private capital and promote investment.

With favourable demographics, high productivity potential and ideal positioning as a springboard into the rest of Africa, South Africa is seen as an attractive destination for growth-seeking investors.

Ranked 61 out of 147 in the World Economic Forum’s latest Global Competitiveness Report and as the continent’s second-biggest economy, President Ramaphosa said South Africa offered investors the stability of a well-regulated and developed country.



Head Of Missions Conference 2018 in Pretoria including Ambassador Msholi

DEPUTY MINISTER LANDERS UNDERTAKES WORKING VISIT TO THE SAHARAWI REFUGEE CAMPS IN TINDOUF, SOUTH WEST ALGERIA

Deputy Minister Luwellyn Landers undertook a Working Visit to the Saharawi Refugee Camps in Tindouf, South West Algeria, from 12 to 15 October 2018.

The purpose of the visit was to deepen diplomatic relations between the Government of South Africa and the Government of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR). The Working Visit also allowed South Africa to reaffirm its solidarity and support for the just struggle of the Saharawi people for self-determination and independence.

The Working Visit took place following the historic Working Visit to South Africa by the President of the SADR, Brahim Ghali, on 5 June 2018, during which the two heads of state reviewed matters of mutual bilateral, continental and international interest. The South African Government has recently approved the provision of humanitarian assistance to the SADR Government through the African Renaissance Fund, totalling R10 million. This against the backdrop of the exceptional material hardships confronting the Saharawi refugees due to the reduced international aid. The visit also took place as the United Nations (UN) Security Council is considering the extension of the UN Mission in Western Sahara mandate, which expires in October 2018.

During the visit, Deputy Minister Landers also delivered the Nelson Mandela Centenary Lecture in Tindouf.

SOWETO LIGHT SHINES ON BROADWAY AS “THE LION KING” HITS NEW YORK



When the curtain lifts at the Minskoff Theatre in New York, Tshidi Manye’s voice sweeps over 1 600 people, leaving barely a dry eye in the house.

In character as the oracle Rafiki, Manye has opened the hit musical, *The Lion King*, with the song *The Circle of Life*, on Broadway – New York’s theatre district – since 2004.

“Adults are the first to cry when that curtain goes up and I start singing,” she told *City Press* in the theatre’s foyer recently.

The 51-year-old actress was raised in Mofolo in Soweto, the daughter of Clifford Manye and Thandi Zulu, a famous playwright.

As a child, she sang in her mother’s plays and in church, not dreaming her talent would be her ticket to a red-carpet life on the other side of the world.

“Growing up, I wanted to be a social worker. I love helping people, making people feel comfortable,” she says.

Now, through her voice, Africa comes alive on a New York stage to standing ovations six nights a week.

Earlier this year, industry newsletter *The Wrap* announced *The Lion King* was Broadway’s highest-grossing production, with earnings of \$1,48 billion (R21,8 billion). Based on the 1994 Disney animated film – with music by composer Lebo M, Elton John and Hans Zimmer – the award-winning musical features five of South Africa’s official languages.

SA'S DAVIDS RACES TO 100-M YOUTH OLYMPICS GOLD

South African Luke Davids has the world at his feet after winning the 100-m gold medal at the Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires.

The 17-year-old charged home in a wind-assisted 10.15 seconds to join Akani Simbine as a major 100-m champion for 2018 after Simbine led home a Team SA 1-2 at the Commonwealth Games earlier this year.

According to Team SA website, Davids crossed the finish line in 10.56 seconds in the first stage and in the second stage he lowered his time to 10.15 for a combined 20.71, the only athlete to have a combined tally under 21 seconds.



Gold medal winner Luke Davids

CZECH NEWS

Czech municipal elections

Senate elections were held in the Czech Republic on 5 and 6 October 2018 alongside municipal elections, with a second round held on 12 and 13 October 2018. The Conservative Civic Democratic Party (ODS) won

the election with 10 seats. Governing parties ANO 2011 and the Czech Social Democratic Party were heavily defeated, receiving only 1 seat each. The Communist Party lost its last seat in the Senate. The election was considered the first major win for the opposition to Andrej Babiš' Cabinet. Commentators including Josef Kopecký also noted ODS confirmed their position as the main opposition party, ahead of the Czech Pirate Party. One-third of the 81-member Senate is elected every two years, giving Senators six year terms. Members of the Senate are elected in single-member constituencies using the two-round system.

Happy birthday to Czechoslovakia – 100 years of independence



On the 28th of October 1918, a new country has formed in the heart of Europe. By declaring its independence from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Czechoslovakia was born and it lasted for 75 years. Although the Czechs and Slovaks waved goodbye to each other in 1993, when the country was separated into two independent states, they continued to live peacefully side-by-side as long-time friends. This October, the two nations join to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their common beginnings.

From the beginning of October, massive celebrations take place all over the country. These include various conferences, exhibitions, public events, concerts of live music, performances, and much more! Visit Prague at this time and feel free to join us in celebrating this unique event. The month of October will be loaded with activities that will transform your holiday in the metropolis into a rich cultural experience. Nationalism in the Czech lands is not a recent invention. In fact, its roots date all the way back to the 18th century, when local intellectuals fought for our language and literature under the movement called the Czech National Revival. We are not here to discuss that part of our history, but it is important to keep such endeavours in mind when discussing the origins of Czechoslovakia. By the time the First World War drew to its end, the Czech nation was already quite aware of its identity and confident about its goals. United under the powerful figure of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, the Czechs and Slovaks achieved their independence from the

collapsing Austro-Hungarian Empire right after the war ended.

Apart from Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia, the so-called “First Czechoslovak Republic” also included Carpathian Ruthenia. This region was annexed to Hungary at the beginning of the Second World War and subsequently given over to Soviet Ukraine (must be an awful place if everyone gives it up so easily... just kidding). Besides this partial loss of territory, other important historical events have marked the history of Czechoslovakia. I don't want to bore you with all the historical stuff, so let's fast-forward this a little bit. Anyway, it is the end of the Second World War and two huge armies meet on the premises of this tiny country – the American army reaches the city of Pilsen and the same time that the Soviet army marches to Prague. Somehow they manage to pass this encounter peacefully and Czechoslovakia is returned from the German occupation back to its original state (except for that little region that nobody wanted anyway). However, not many peaceful years go by when the Communist Party takes over in the “Victorious February” of 1948 and installs its rigorous rule. Even though there are attempts at overthrowing this regime, namely the Prague Spring of 1968, it takes quite some time to release the country from its binding. 41 years, in fact. The Velvet Revolution of 1989 ends the communist dictatorship, and not long after that Czechoslovakia is divided into two independent republics – the Czech Republic and Slovakia.