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REGIONAL NEWS

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Editorial

Dear readers,

I hope you enjoy reading the last regional issue of Southern Africa in 2017! I would like to draw your focus to the article of the Regional Consular Center and the Consulate General of Switzerland. If you keep them updated about your details, they will be able to assist you even more efficiently when you need their services.

Happy reading,

Gisela Piercey



GISELA PIERCEY,
EDITOR SWISS REVIEW
SOUTHERN AFRICA

Swiss week in Mauritius

We look back to a successful first Swiss week in Mauritius organized by the Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Mauritius and the Embassy of Switzerland in South Africa which took place from 4-12 August.

More than 200 guests attended the opening ceremony. The President of the Republic, H.E. Mrs. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, the Ambassador of Switzerland to Mauritius, Mrs. Helene Budliger Artieda as well as Swiss Council of States member and Vice-President of the Council of the Swiss Abroad, Mr. Filippo Lombardi, who opened officially the "Semaine suisse". Both national anthems were performed by Swiss alphorn musician, Ms Eliana Burki. The Restaurant at Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel was fully booked for the brunch which was prepared by Swiss Chef, Mr. Thomas Bösch. A workshop was organized by Air Mauritius for tour operators. Mr. Federico Sommaruga, Head of Swiss Tourism, gave a presentation about Switzerland as a tourist destination. Direct flights with Air Mauritius to Geneva will operate as from November 2017. Two Swiss films ("win-win" and "la petite chambre"), were shown

at the movie theatre Caudan. The Management Institute of Directors organized a conference on innovation which was opened by Minister of Technology, Innovation and Communication, Hon. Yogida Sawmynaden.

Around 130 people attended the conference. Mr. Walter Steinlin, President of the Commission for Technology and Innovation in Switzerland, and the President of the Republic, had a debate on key elements on innovation. The Swiss week ended without really ending. A feeling of prolongation, a longing to follow-up on contacts made, friendships renewed and for some lucky ones a direct flight to Geneva. In this sense I shall

resume and say "à bientôt".

Ambassador of Switzerland lauds Swiss private sector commitment on National Day

On August 1, Swiss nationals in Zimbabwe celebrated the 726th anniversary of independence with the Ambassador of Switzerland H.E. Mrs. Ruth Huber lauding the role that Swiss private companies are playing towards the wellbeing and economic development of Zimbabwe.

Swiss companies operating in Zimbabwe include Nestlé, MSC Logistics, ABB, Lafarge-Holcim, Bata Shoe Company and Schindler.

"It is important to mention the private sector, as we all know the frame conditions are not very



Truly Swiss: the alphorn

favourable for attracting new investment. Cases of previous investors in agricultural production are unresolved. It is therefore important to acknowledge the positive contribution and the continued commitment of Swiss companies here present and the impact they are making through their knowhow, investment, production of quality products and job creation," said Ambassador Huber.

Speaking on the improved bilateral relations, Mrs Huber noted that in February of this year Switzerland and Zimbabwe signed the Bilateral Agreement on International Cooperation that was further bolstered by the approval of a new Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) five year development strategy for Southern Africa that will run until 2022. The SDC programs focus on the prevention of HIV-Aids and the promotion of Food Security. In Zimbabwe, Switzerland is also working towards strengthening of democratic governance, peace and security.

Guest of Honour, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs,



Swiss Ambassador H.E. Ruth Huber delivers her speech during the Swiss National Day celebrations in Harare.

Honourable Edgar Mbwembwe thanked the Swiss Government for the intensified cooperation with the Government of Zimbabwe and noted how this policy shift can be emulated by others.

"We are pleased with the number of development projects being implemented in the country with the support of the Swiss Government. This is especially so in the key sectors of agriculture, health and water and sanitation which have helped improve the lives of the people of Zimbabwe."

"In the areas of trade and investment we are very satisfied by the continued and active involvement of your government which has resulted in the creation of employment," said Honourable Mbwembwe.

Swiss nationals and visitors at this year's celebrations were treated to various Swiss food and wine that included mountain cheese, dried meat, Swiss style sausages, Raclette and Swiss chocolates.

67 minutes for Nelson Mandela
The 18th of July is a day that has been pronounced as a celebration of the birth and life of South Africa's most humble citizen, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

The Ambassador of the Switzerland to South Africa, Mrs. Helene Budliger Artieda, together with a few of her colleagues joined the Minister of the Department of Women, Mrs. Susan Shabangu, in the Office of the Presidency in doing their 67 minutes of charitable work. The day kicked off with a small breakfast at the Times Square restaurant in Pretoria and then the delegation of volunteers moved down to the basement to start packing food parcels for school children. Teams of 20 members each dedicated

their 67 minutes to a worthy cause and managed to pack 3 200 food parcels in their time slot which will result in enabling 15 children to go to bed with a full stomach on five meals a week for an entire year. The goal of the initiative, which was organized by Sun International in collaboration with Rise NGO, was to pack 3 million food packs for children all over South Africa and volunteers gathered in Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth and East London. The event was fun, rewarding and emphasized the spirit of team work.



In the spirit of giving back.

Celebrating 10 years of collaboration

The year 2017 marks the 10th anniversary of the cooperation between Switzerland and South Africa in science, innovation and economy.

To celebrate this auspicious occasion, the Science and Technology Desk together with the Swiss Business Hub South Africa (SBHSA) of the Embassy of Switzerland in South Africa organised an event to thank all their partners and local stakeholders for their support over the past 10 years.

The casual event took place on 7 July and was hosted at the Ambassador's official residence in Pretoria. In attendance were various partners from industry, business, academia and national ministries such as the Department

of Science and Technology as well as the Department of Trade and Industry. Ambassador of Switzerland to South Africa, Mrs. Helene Budliger Artieda, kicked off the event by thanking the guests for their valuable partnership throughout the years. The Science and Technology Counsellor, Ms. Jackie Friedenthal, as well as the Head of SBHSA, Ms. Anita Dietiker, each took the opportunity to share personal reflections of the successful collaboration between the two countries.

Keeping true to keeping it equal between the two nations, the event was concluded with a traditional Swiss meal of Raclette (cheese dish) and a South African Spit-Braai. Here is to many more years of fruitful collaboration between Switzerland and South Africa!

For the attention of the Swiss nationals in the Southern Africa area

The Regional consular center in Pretoria and the Consulate General of Switzerland kindly request your collaboration in updating your details.

In order to avoid any delay when applying for a Swiss passport, kindly register or keep us updated of the following:

- change of address or telephone number
- departure from consular district:
- change of civil status of any family members (birth, marriage, divorce, death,

adoption, change of name etc.).

- acquisition or loss of foreign citizenship

Please send us your communication by e-mail (Pretoria: southernafrica@eda.admin.ch and Cape Town : cap.vertretung@eda.admin.ch) or use the online desk for Swiss Nationals residing abroad. You will find the link at the top of the website of the FDFA www.fdfa.admin.ch. With the online desk you have the possibility to access consular services, such as registering in the Swiss Abroad Register, notifications of changes of civil status, changes of address.

Regarding the renewal of Swiss passports and Identity cards, we kindly ask you to submit your passport application online on www.schweizerpass.ch. The Swiss representation will then send you an email with a link to its calendar to enable you to book your appointment. It is no longer possible to apply for your passport in person at the counter without an appointment. If you do not have any access to a computer, please call your representation and we will be happy to assist you telephonically. Please note that a regular passport can only be issued once your current civil status (birth, marriage, divorce, death, adoption) has been registered with the civil registrar of your place of

origin.

For further information, we suggest that you consult our updated website www.eda.admin.ch/pretoria.

2018 Consular Consultation Days in Durban and Harare

Please save the date: The Regional Consular Center for Southern Africa (RCC) will hold consultation days in Durban on Tuesday the 30th of January and Wednesday the 31st of January 2018.

The RCC will also hold consultation days in Harare, Zimbabwe on Tuesday the 13th of February 2018. Swiss citizens will have the opportunity to renew their passport, as we will have a mobile passport station to capture the biometric data and discuss other consular matters. If you would like to take the advantage of this opportunity, please contact the RCC by e-mail southernafrica@eda.admin.ch until the 30th of November 2017. We look forward to seeing you and to bring consular services to your neighborhood.

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NEXT DEADLINES - 2018

Issue	Next Deadline	Distribution
SR 01/18	18/12/2017	31/01/2018
SR 02/18	27/02/2018	29/03/2018
SR 03/18	23/04/2018	28/05/2018
SR 04/18	27/08/2018	29/09/2018

FOR ADDRESS CHANGES, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICIAL SWISS REPRESENTATION IN YOUR COUNTRY DIRECTLY.

Swiss Club info

SWISS CLUB IN JOHANNESBURG:

Swiss Society Helvetia, 31 Moerdyk Ave, Vorna Valley, Midrand, Chairman: Mario Valli, 082 451 8040; office: Max Waspe 083 412 0161, T 0118053039, office@swissclubjhbc.co.za www.swissclubjhbc.co.za Swiss Country Club Rest. «The Courier», Wolfgang Wollauz, T/F 0118053040, C 0825610063, Tue-Sat 11-21h30 Rest./kitchen, 11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h, T/F 011 805 3040, C 082561 0063, www.dining-out.co.za «The Courier». Please visit our website for information and updates on events at the club.

Our Clubs of Society: Afro Gugge, Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, Skittling Club. Associated Groups: Swiss Choir, Swiss Rifle Club, Swiss Golf, G.S.N.A. Senior Swiss Circle meets every 2nd Saturday of the month for Lunch Swiss Ladies meet every 4th Thursday of the month for lunch. Swiss Rifle Club Johannesburg: We shoot every 4th Sat of the month, from 9am. We normally shoot two different programs, with Swiss rifles, provided by the club. Visit our Facebook site or call Daniel: 082-5699146.

SWISS CLUB IN PRETORIA:

Swiss Society Alpina, Hans-Georg Bosch, President, T 0123478310, C 0825510222, swissclub.pta@hbosch.com Biffy van Rooyen, Secretary bvrooyen@gmail.com Facebook group: Swiss Club Alpina.

SWISS CLUB IN CAPE TOWN:

Swiss Social&Sports Club, Green Point Common, Off Bill Peters Road, Green Point, PO Box 2279, Cape Town 8000, T 0214348405. www.swissclub.co.za
PRESIDENT: Nicky Rodrigues, president@swissclub.co.za
C 082 921 7729. VICE PRESIDENT/
Treasurer: Andreas Reichmuth, treasurer@swissclub.co.za

C 083 297 3803. SECRETARY/ ASO

Representative: Marcie Bischof, aso@swissclub.co.za, catering@swissclub.co.za. C 076 389 7824. To receive the "newsflash" contact the club at catering@swissclub.co.za or on 0214348405.

The Swiss club Cape Town is open for dinner every Thursday evening. Every 1st Thursday of the month is Pensioner's Lunch. Join the Swiss Jass players every LAST thursday of the month. There is much more happening at our club, meeting friends, host a party, club events etc. For more information, please send an email to: info@swissclub.co.za.

SWISS CLUB NATAL:

President Philippe Lanz C 082 4932673, T 031 765 1625, p.lanz@absamail.co.za.

JASS EVENINGS held second Friday of every month at the LAPA, Ethelbert Village, 5 Park Road, Malvern at 19:00hrs. SPORT TARGET SHOOTING – held monthly – at 08.30am 23rd September, 28th October, 25th November, 9th December 2017 & 27th January 2018 – held at Nottingham Road Shooting Range. TALA GAME RESERVE & BRAAI – Sunday 15th October – 09.30am. TEN PIN BOWLING + Lunch – Sunday 26th November – 09.30am – Dolphin Bowl, Amanzimtoti. PRIZE JASSEN – Friday December 8th – 18:00hrs - LAPA, Ethelbert Village, 5 Park Road, Malvern. YEAR END FUNCTION – Sunday 10th December 2017 – 11am – Krantzkloof. SWISS FILM EVENING – 20th January 2018 – 18:00hrs – Point Yacht Club – details of film to be advised. AGM (64th) – Sunday 4th March 2018 – 10.30am – Augusta Estate, Gillitts.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

For more up-to-date information regarding times/venues/directions/ maps please visit our informative

website – www.swissclubnatal.org.za

SWISS CLUB PORT ELIZABETH:

John Diener, President, PO Box 5608, Walmer 6065, T 0413792421, johndiener@bluewin.ch; comm.member Mark Krebser C 0823214693, T w 0413671422; Heidi Schultes, secretary, C 0613696598

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