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# REGIONAL NEWS

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

### Editorial

Dear readers,

There is an important change regarding the visa application procedure for Switzerland. The new external service provider for visas in South Africa is VFS Global, and applications should be submitted at their centres in Pretoria, Cape Town and Durban. Please see the article for further details.

Happy reading,  
Gisela Piercey



GISELA PIERCEY,  
EDITOR SWISS REVIEW  
SOUTHERN AFRICA

### Important news regarding visa applications

**Changes of outsourcing partners for visa applications to Switzerland and centralizing the visa issuance for Switzerland at the Regional Consular Centre (RCC) for Southern Africa in Pretoria.**

In order to continuously improve the public spending efficiency and lower public expenditures, Switzerland subscribes to the WTO standards on public procurement, which makes the system more transparent and equitable.

In 2017, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA published a worldwide tendering procedure for the renewing of the current contracts with its outsourcing visa partners that will expire in mid-July 2018. The evaluation of the bids received has resulted in a change of outsourcing partners for the Swiss representations in South Africa. VFS Global will by mid-June 2018 be Switzerland's new external service provider for visas in South Africa. This means, that all Schengen visa applications for Switzerland will be dealt through VFS Global and should be submitted at the VFS Global acceptance centres in Pretoria, Cape Town and Durban.

VFS Global is a long-standing and trusted partner of the FDFA. Further information and contact addresses of Schengen visa acceptance centres are published on our website ([www.eda.admin.ch/pretoria](http://www.eda.admin.ch/pretoria)).

Furthermore, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs is constantly working to optimise its network, to increase efficiency and to promote cost efficiency. For those reasons, it has been decided to centralize the issuance of visas for Switzerland in Pretoria.

As from June 2018, all short stay Schengen visas for visitors, tourism and business (Visa C up to 90 days stay) and long stay visas (visa D, also known as national visas) will be established at the Regional Consular Centre for Southern Africa:

Regional Consular Centre for Southern Africa at the Swiss Embassy  
Visa Section, 225 Veale Street, 0181 New Muckleneuk, Pretoria  
E-mail for visa inquiries: [pre.visa@eda.admin.ch](mailto:pre.visa@eda.admin.ch).

You will find more information on our webpage: [www.eda.admin.ch/pretoria](http://www.eda.admin.ch/pretoria).

The Swiss representations in South Africa together with the

company VFS Global are committed to ensure a smooth implementation of these changes.

### Swiss game is making an impact in South Africa

**Street Racket is an innovative and easy to use movement game for all from Switzerland that was introduced during a two months period in South Africa in the beginning of 2018. Street Racket promotes health, activity, sports, togetherness and integration at almost no costs at all.**

It reaches out to all age groups and playing levels and it makes everyone more competent in their movements and motor skills through playful hand-eye coordination training. All it takes is some lines on the ground (with chalk, colour, tape or sports markers), a racket and a ball – and you are ready to go. Street Racket is the new common base for all racket sports (easy to learn and therefore quick success leads to early motivation which leads to sustainable and regular activity) and the goal is to increase the active part of society with the simple setting and the various ways of playing – right at everyone's doorstep. Street Racket is an activity that can be enjoyed alone, in pairs and in groups alike. So far

there are over 150 game forms and people invent new ones all the time, so there is a lot of room for creativity as well. The specially designed and simple rules ensure that a very fluent and controlled game takes place, there is no risk for injuries and the concept can easily be transferred into social, active, healthy and meaningful lifestyle. The courts can literally be drawn or marked on the ground everywhere where there is a hard and more or less even surface. Street Racket creates spaces where people come together in play.

In just under a year this new sport has moved thousands of kids and adults in Switzerland and has also been very well received with elderly people and people with a handicap. The inventors and founders of Street Racket, Rahel and Marcel Straub from Zurich, brought their ideas to Africa along with their four little children. Thanks to a wide sporting network,

that originated during Marcel's career as an international squash player where he got to know many South African athletes, the couple chose South Africa to start a global movement.

#### **Mission South Africa**

The impact "Mission South Africa" (<https://www.streetracket.net/missionsouthafrica/>) has created was more than the Straubs could ever dream of. Many workshops with facilitators of community centers, NGOs and NPOs were conducted, various schools, universities, sports clubs, townships (Alexandra, Khayelitsha) and prisons (Pollsmoor) were visited in Johannesburg and Cape Town and the Swiss embassy as well as the Swiss council supported the mission. Rahel and Marcel Straub presented their visions at the residence of the general council to 40 invited guests in attendance of the Ambassador, Helene Budliger

Artieda, as well as representatives of the Western Cape government. As a result, the demand of Street Racket workshops increased daily and the feedbacks were overwhelming. In three extra sessions, Marcel Straub trained 11 sports coaches and PE teachers to become official Street Racket instructors who can now conduct workshops for schools, communities, prisons, businesses and various social programs on their own. A very pleased Marcel Straub sums up the current situation before leaving back to Switzerland: "The demand for Street Racket classes is very high and there will be thousands of people playing this very versatile movement game in South Africa very soon". One of the goals of this mission was to prove how easy it is to implement this sustainable tool to promote health and activity in a new part of the world. Street Racket is a powerful instrument to fight obesity and inactivity and the Straubs are now getting requests to teach their game in many new countries around the globe. "It's wonderful to see the positive outcome of this mission and to now be able to travel the world and spread our ideas. The more people know about Street Racket the better", says Rahel Straub when asked about her feelings and the success of the mission in Africa. To increase the impact and to educate more instructors the Straubs are planning to return to Africa in June – anyone interested in learning about Street Racket can contact them: [info@streetracket.com](mailto:info@streetracket.com).



TOP: Street Racket was introduced at a workshop at Pollsmoor Prison in Cape Town.

LEFT : Mama Rosie is enjoying the game in the township.

## ASO news

On 10 March the ASR Council Meeting took place in Berne, where once again some of the main topics were the ongoing Banking saga and E-Voting.

Here are now some good news in that Banque Cantonale de Genève has come to an agreement with ASO that they will entertain banking accounts for Swiss Nationals living Abroad. However, as with most Swiss Banks, accounts can only be opened when applying

in person.

For further details, please send an email to [aso@hbosch.com](mailto:aso@hbosch.com). This year the ASO Congress will take place in Visp (Valais) from 10 – 12 August 2018. Please visit ASO's website [www.aso.ch](http://www.aso.ch) for more details. During March a very successful information evening covering financial options for Expats took place in Cape Town, organised by Marcie Bischof (ASR Delegate) in conjunction with Levantine Corp.

Hans-Georg Bosch ASR Delegate for SADEC region [aso@hbosch.com](mailto:aso@hbosch.com).

round of Information Events will be held around the Country. All Swiss Citizens registered with the Consulates in SA will be informed via email of upcoming events and where.

Hans-Georg Bosch – President

### 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](http://www.swissclub.co.za)

The Swiss Rifle Club Cape Town (SRC) was founded in 1949 and is an independent and separate club and is not a sub-section of the Swiss Social & Sports Club Cape Town, although we are closely connected. We have about 18 shooting dates on our annual calendar, which include the 'Feldschiessen' and the 'Obligatorisches Bundesprogramm'. Most of our meetings are held at the SA Navy's Klawer Shooting Range above Simonstown off Red Hill road beyond the famous 'Just Nuisance' grave-site. We occasionally use the SA Army's 'Good Hope' (Goeie Hoop) shooting range near Atlantis, and the Western Cape Shooting Union's range (WCSU) off Brakkefontein road, next to the army range. The SRC owns a number of the renowned K-31 Swiss army bolt-action rifles, as well as a few Stg.-57 and some .22 rim-fire rifles for the use of its members on the shooting range. We are an 'Accredited Sport-shooting Organization' under the Firearms Control Act, and are a member club of the WCSU. We recently held the ever-popular annual Piggy Shoot family event, where every participant wins a ham or a sausage, and where youngsters are introduced to the

## 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, [www.swissclubjhb.co.za](http://www.swissclubjhb.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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month for Lunch Swiss Ladies meet every 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:swissclub.pta@hbosch.com), Biffy van Rooyen, Secretary [bvrooyen@gmail.com](mailto:bvrooyen@gmail.com) Facebook group: Swiss Club Alpina

On 9<sup>th</sup> February the AGM of the Swiss Club Pretoria took place at the Restaurant of the Swiss Club Johannesburg. This year the AGM coincided with the Birthday of the President and the Committee organised an impromptu Birthday Bash, followed by the AGM. Dates to be added to your diary are the National Day Celebration on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> July at the Church Hall of the Johannesburg (adjacent to the Deutsche Schule Pretoria) and our Year End Function on 3<sup>rd</sup> November to be held at the same venue. Starting in May this year, a further



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## IMPRESSUM

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