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REGIONAL NEWS

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Editorial

Dear readers,

■ I think nobody could have prepared us for 2020. Within a few months life as we know it has changed forever. While the first-world countries have financial safety nets to assist their citizens, the situation in Southern Africa could not be more different. With the borders still closed for the foreseeable future, we are facing another few very tough months. I wish everyone lots of strength during this challenging time. Let's only physically distance but get closer together as communities because we will need each other to make it through this storm.

My sincere condolences go to the family of Lorraine McEnery who has been responsible for the layout of Swiss Review Southern Africa for many years. RIP Lorraine.

■ Warm regards,
Gisela Piercey



GISELA PIERCEY,
EDITOR «SWISS REVIEW
SOUTHERN AFRICA»

Harnessing the power of the sun: Swiss Embassy in Harare goes green

The whirring sound of a diesel generator starts another day without electricity in Zimbabwe's capital Harare. As happens with frequency at this time of day, the state power utility imposes a blackout over the city to prevent the entire power grid from overloading. In order to continue to have electricity during the blackout, building owners throughout the city – including embassies from all over the world – turn on private diesel generators. The Swiss embassy is an exception – its electrical appliances are working and the computers are on, but there is no noise from rattling diesel generators and no smell of exhaust fumes.

Solar panels on the rooftops of the Swiss Embassy in Harare. The system was installed and put into operation by local service providers. © Swiss Embassy Zimbabwe

The embassy rooftop shimmers blue in the strong morning sun. Solar panels provide the Swiss embassy with the energy it needs during Harare's rolling blackouts. The system relies on lithium batteries to store excess energy produced during the day which can be used after sunset. It can keep the embassy premises running until electricity is restored.

Turning to solar energy

The solar system replaces the use of polluting and noisy diesel generators to provide back-up power when grid electricity is cut, says Mr. Niculin Jäger, the Ambassador of Switzerland to Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

By solarising its premises Switzerland is making a commitment to providing cleaner, better, reliable and tangible energy solutions. The frequent power cuts had increased the Mission's dependency on generator power usage, therefore increasing operating costs and carbon emissions.





Climate change and its consequences

Zimbabwe's energy crisis is a result of its major sources of electricity struggling to keep up with demand. Kariba power plant dam, north of the country – where Zimbabwe gets 60 percent of its electricity – has low water levels due to poor rains in the last few years. At the moment, the dam is producing less than 30 percent of what it usually can.

Speaking at the inauguration of the solar system at the Swiss embassy, Zimbabwe's energy minister highlighted that the government backs the use of solar energy and sees its adoption as a viable, clean and lasting alternative to the challenges of insufficient power supply. With a relatively stable climate and plenty of sunshine, Zimbabwe is ideally suited for the production of energy through solar technology.

Solar energy is drawing a growing interest not only from businesses and households but also from the government in Zimbabwe leading to improved energy security for critical users. In this regard, the Swiss embassy in Harare plans to feed additional power produced into the national grid once the electricity net metering plans are finalised.

The solar installation at the Swiss embassy is in keeping with the Sustainable Development Strategy which sets out the sustainability priorities Switzerland intends to focus on in the coming years. Under the strategy, the Swiss government is building and managing Swiss Embassies worldwide according to sustainable standards.

Soliswiss Stands for Solidarity Switzerland's responds to the Covid-19 pandemic in Zimbabwe and the region

As countries in Southern Africa work towards bringing the Covid-19 pandemic under control, collaboration with the international community is paramount. The global crisis has afforded Zimbabwe and other countries in the region an opportunity to improve their health capacities, share information and experiences in containing Covid-19.

Switzerland through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) regional office in Harare is one such counterpart that has committed US\$3.3 million to help Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe Minister of Energy and Power Development Hon. Fortune Chasi (second from right) and Ambassador Niculin Jäger (front right), together with other participants at the inauguration of the Swiss embassy's solar system.
© Swiss Embassy Zimbabwe

and four other countries in Southern Africa mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The assistance strengthens various aspects of the pandemic response: risk communication, community outreach and public health messaging, capacitating frontline health care personnel, immigration, customs and other support staff in high-risk areas to respond better to the pandemic. The assistance is reaching over a million people.

According to the Regional Director of Cooperation for Southern Africa, Mr. Manuel Thurnhofer, "The goal of Switzerland in the region is to limit human-to-human transmission and minimize the regional impact of COVID-19 through partnership with countries, multilateral and non-governmental partners to mitigate vulnerabilities and gaps in preparedness. The Swiss funding, builds on our long-standing partnership and investments to contribute to a healthier Southern Africa."

Through the same assistance, the SDC is also protecting the poor and vulnerable respond to the impact of drought in Zimbabwe that has left more than 7 million people in need of food assistance. Working with the World Food Programme, the intervention is ensuring that all required health and safety measures are in place in order to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 during food distributions.

Switzerland has an ongoing commitment to deliver long-term support

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Switzerland has approved US\$3.3 million for immediate response in Southern Africa.



in Southern Africa. In this regard, in the last five years it has invested more US\$125 million in development assistance under its Regional Programme for Southern Africa focusing on HIV/AIDS, Food Security and Youth Employment.

ASO UPDATE

Dear fellow Swiss, 2020 has turned out to be a most difficult year for the ASO and more particular also for the Auslandschweizer Rat due to the Corona Pandemic restrictions. But we managed to hold our meetings in the Virtual Domain and I can report today, that all the time critical issues were debated and decisions were made.

Beginning of 2021 will see the election of the ASR for the next legislative period of 2021 to 2025. Once again we have managed to secure the services of Gisela Piercy as election coordinator. The ASO Congress has been postponed and will now be held from 20 – 22 August 2021 in Lugano.

*Hans-Georg Bosch ASR Council
Member for Southern Africa.*

SWISS CLUB INFO

PLEASE NOTE: The mentioned Swiss Club activities might be affected by the lockdown regulations.

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,
011 805 3039, office@swissclubjhb.co.za,
www.swissclubjhb.co.za,
Swiss Country Club Rest. The Courier:
Wolfgang Wollauz, T/F 011 805 3040,
C 082 561 0063, Tue-Sat 11-21h30
Rest./kitchen, 11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h,
T/F 011 805 3040, C 082 561 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 Guggi, 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: 082 569 9146.

SWISS CLUB IN PRETORIA

Swiss Society Alpina,
President: *Hans-Georg Bosch*,
T 012 347 8310, C 082 551 0222,
swissclub.pta@hbosch.com,
Secretary: *Biffy van Rooyen*,
bvrooyen@gmail.com

2020 proves to be a difficult year for our club. After the AGM all further

events were Virtual Events where club members were encouraged to share their Virtual Fondue Evening and also their National Day Celebrations with their fellow club members via WhatsApp. It turned out to be a huge success but we cannot hide the fact that we as a Club exist and flourish with personal interaction with the members. Let us hope that 2021 will be a better year. *Hans-Georg Bosch, President*

SWISS CLUB IN CAPE TOWN

Swiss Social&Sports Club,
Green Point Common,
Off Bill Peters Road, Green Point.
P.O. Box 2279, Cape Town 8000,
T 021 434 8405 www.swissclub.co.za
President: *Christian Schiess*,
president@swissclub.co.za
C 079 088 8233
Vice President/Treasurer: *Andreas Reichmuth*,
treasurer@swissclub.co.za
C 083 297 3803
Secretary: *Chayenne Rusi*,
secretary@swissclub.co.za
C 082 569 8446
To receive the “newsflash” contact the club at catering@swissclub.co.za or 021 434 8405.

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,

IMPRESSUM

DELEGATES OF THE ORGANISATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

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NEXT REGIONAL ISSUE DEADLINES

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01/21	07/01/2021	11/02/2021
02/21	13/03/2021	20/04/2021
03/21	07/05/2021	11/06/2021
04/21	04/09/2021	08/10/2021

FOR ADDRESS CHANGES, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICIAL SWISS REPRESENTATION IN YOUR COUNTRY AND DON'T EMAIL THE EDITOR OF SWISS REVIEW SOUTHERN AFRICA. THANK YOU.

host a party, club events etc.

For more information, please send an email to: info@swissclub.co.za
The independent Swiss Rifle Club can be found on the Swiss Club Cape Town club's website www.swissclub.co.za under rifle club and on Facebook.
President: *Dierk Lüthi*, hdluthi@gmail.com & dierk@telkomsa.net; C 083 441 4626. Shooting takes place mostly at the SA Navy 'Klawer Valley' range off Red Hill road above Simon's Town. Shooting dates and times are listed on the website and the 2 Facebook pages.

SWISS CLUB NATAL

President: *Philippe Lanz*
C 082 493 2673, T 031 765 1625,
p.lanz@absamail.co.za

JASS EVENTS

This is held on the second Friday of each month and will commence at 2 p.m. and is held at Rolf Klein Jass Stube, 3 Bona Terra Road, Assagay (directions on our website).

SPORT TARGET SHOOTING

Held on the 4th Saturday of each month (weather permitting) commencing at 08:30 a.m. - Nottingham Road (calendar available on our website).

CUMBERLAND GAME FARM

Pietermaritzburg: 27th September - braai/lunch.

BAYNSFIELD GAME FARM

Richmond: 25th October - Braai.

YEAR END BRAAI,

Karkloof: 6th December.

PRIZE JASSEN,

13th December - held at Rolf Klein Jass Stube, 3 Bona Terra Road, Assagay.

2021 - CULINARY EVENING,

Augusta Estate: 7th February.

■ 67th AGM,
Augusta Estate - 7th March.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

*For up-to-date information regarding times/venues/directions, please visit our most informative website www.swissclubnatal.org.za

SWISS CLUB PORT ELIZABETH

President: *Anne Diener*, C 079 089 4428, Comm.member: *Urs Leuenberger*, C 074 355 2182,
Secretary: *Heidi Schultes*, C 076 376 1441

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