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# REGIONAL NEWS

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

### Editorial

Dear readers,

■ South Africa's economy is stuck in its longest downward cycle since World War II and has not grown by more than 3 percent annually since 2012. The economy is likely to contract in the third quarter after deadly riots, looting and arson erupted in July and weighed on activity in the eastern KwaZulu-Natal province and the commercial hub of Gauteng. Let's hope that vaccinations can increase faster, to avoid stricter lockdown measures in December when a fourth wave of Covid-19 infections is expected.

■ *Warm regards,*

*Gisela Piercley*



GISELA PIERCEY,  
EDITOR «SWISS REVIEW  
SOUTHERN AFRICA»

## The power of community – Swiss NGO building bridges in South Africa

In an uncertain world, community workers and activists are the face of sustainable social development. But often they work in isolation and against enormous odds. Swiss NGO MEETCHANGEMAKERS has embarked on a pilot project in South Africa to link these changemakers with potential partners and supporters.

Nobel prize winner Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu called South Africa 'The Rainbow Nation' because of its diversity – the happy juxtaposition of colours, creeds, cultures and lifestyles that makes up this remarkable country. South Africa has always defied the odds, and now – with the same types of crises that would bedevil any society in major transition – ordinary people have picked up the baton to help. This is why a Swiss NGO, intending to link social entrepreneurs around the world with philanthropic partners, ambassadors and volunteers, has chosen South Africa for its pilot project.

MEETCHANGEMAKERS is a network that identifies, promotes and assists ordinary heroes – South Africans who have turned adversity into op-

portunity. The website [www.meetchangemakers.com](http://www.meetchangemakers.com) features stories about their work to salute their initiative, inspire others, provide hope, and find partners and supporters.

All the changemakers embody resilience, resourcefulness, adaptability and innovation. These are also the characteristics of successful companies. Each changemaker also represents a different aspect of society or field of endeavour, ranging from basic human requirements such as clean water, to awareness of the environment, or creative expression.

By highlighting their different initiatives, MEETCHANGEMAKERS intends to match a changemaker with a potential corporate partner who could assist by providing logistical



Capetonian street artist  
Rizah Potgieter helps  
steer children off the  
streets through art.

support or funding assistance in line with the company profile and which fits in with their company values.

#### Community workers = Social Entrepreneurs

The World Economic Forum has recognised that community workers are at the forefront of global social change and sustainable development. These activists are embedded in their communities, they usually take a bottom-up approach, and they develop and grow organically. For this reason, their success rate is almost always 100%.

#### Connect with a changemaker

There are several ways to support the changemakers. Tourism planners can organise visits to their projects. Event planners can use them as inspirational speakers. Public relations planning can include their projects in brand awareness. They can be adopted as brand ambassadors.

All the Changemakers are extraordinary people who work in a wide variety of fields and environments. Murendeni has invented a simple, cheap and effective water purifier that supplies clean water to communities. He could have patented this invention and commercialised it – instead he uses his expertise to improve lives. Jessica was incensed by newspaper stories about human trafficking, and how the most-trafficked people are vulnerable young girls. She started an organisation to stop this. Former gang-member Welcome is a one-man crime-stopper. But he does not deal with the after-effects of crime, but rather goes to the source, the dysfunctional communities that incubate criminals. Aaniyah is sharing her love of the ocean with communities who live adjacent to the sea and showing them how to preserve a resource that could enrich their existence. And talented street artist

Rizah holds creative workshops in poor areas to channel anger and fear into artistic expression. These are just a few of the individuals who are working to change their communities.

Most people who go into community work do so because they have a passion for change. The task can then become so big and overwhelming that they have little time for anything else. All their resources are used on their immediate goals, and they can struggle with issues like fundraising, logistics, and administration. This is where MEETCHANGEMAKERS has stepped in to help. By offering access to the resources offered by companies and supporters, these individuals can become more effective and focussed.

The changemakers featured in [www.meetchangemakers.com](http://www.meetchangemakers.com) have proven track records. They are already established and respected community activists with skills and success. What they lack, is a wider reach and better access to partners and supporters who can expand their work. Anybody interested can become part of positive change.

If you would like to know more about supporting MEETCHANGEMAKERS, or how to get involved in volunteering or funding, you can send a mail to [info@meetchangemakers.com](mailto:info@meetchangemakers.com) and read the inspiring changemaker profiles on [www.meetchangemakers.com](http://www.meetchangemakers.com)



#### INFORMATION FROM THE REGIONAL CONSULAR CENTER

In order for us to provide you with the latest information from Switzerland at all times, please always inform the Regional Consular Center (RCC) in Pretoria of any changes to your contact coordinates (including physical & E-mail addresses and/or as well as mobile number) through the online desk (<https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/south-africa/en/home/services/online-desk.html>) or by sending an email to the RCC ([southernafrica@eda.admin.ch](mailto:southernafrica@eda.admin.ch)).

Please be also reminded to always update your civil status changes (marriage, divorce, birth, death etc.) as soon as possible. Civil status changes may also be notified through the same communication channels.



#### SWISS COMPANIES IN ZIMBABWE LAUNCH BUSINESS CHAMBER

Swiss companies based in Zimbabwe have launched a Business Chamber, which will focus on promoting the development of economic and commercial trade between Switzerland and Zimbabwe.

The new Chamber will serve as a platform of exchange for its members and interested parties from government and business. It will link leading international companies and small to medium enterprises from Switzerland and Zimbabwe and promote best practices. Speaking at the official launch, Ambassador of Switzerland, Mr. Niculin Jäger, said the Business Chamber will be significant in supporting the trade relationship bet-

ween the two countries. "Switzerland as the leading European investor in Zimbabwe can and wants to play a significant role in the economic development. I am confident that through the just launched Business Chamber we will create new opportunities for Swiss and Zimbabwe companies."

## SWI NEWS

The "SWI plus" app is now also available for English-speaking Swiss abroad as well as to interested parties and can be downloaded from the app store free of charge. SWI focuses on daily news, updates and information relevant to Swiss citizens living abroad. For more information, please visit Swissinfo (<https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/the-swiss-community-around-the-globe>). SWI plus is also available for Android in GooglePlay or iOS in AppStore.

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## ASO

Dear Fellow Swiss, it gives me great pleasure to announce, that I have been re-elected to represent you a further 4 years as your Local Delegate of Council of the Auslandschweizerrat. One of the hot topics currently is the issue around COVID vaccinations and the Swiss Covid QR Certificate.

Banking accounts, E-Voting remain the other "Hot" topics. You can contact me on [aso@hbosch.com](mailto:aso@hbosch.com).

Hans-Georg Bosch – ASR Ratsmitglied

## 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

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[bvrooyen@gmail.com](mailto:bvrooyen@gmail.com),  
Facebook group: Swiss Club Alpina

For the time being, the club continues to exist on a virtual basis only during past and current Covid restrictions. When the restrictions will be lifted we shall resume with our social calendar. Please note our new email [swissclub.alpina@gmail.com](mailto:swissclub.alpina@gmail.com).

## SWISS CLUB IN CAPE TOWN

Swiss Social&Sports Club,  
[www.swissclub.co.za](http://www.swissclub.co.za)  
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Secretary: *Chayenne Rusi*, [secretary@swissclub.co.za](mailto:secretary@swissclub.co.za), C 082 569 8446  
Come visit us at our beautiful Clubhouse & campsite in Jonkershoek Valley, Stellenbosch. To receive regular updates about our events in Jonkershoek and other locations, become a member via our website or send a mail to: [secretary@swissclub.co.za](mailto:secretary@swissclub.co.za)

## IMPRESSION

DELEGATE OF THE ORGANISATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

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## NEXT REGIONAL ISSUE DEADLINES

Issue	Next Deadline	Distribution
01/22	06/01/2022	04/02/2022
02/22	04/03/2022	01/05/2022
03/22	03/06/2022	01/07/2022
04/22	09/09/2022	07/10/2022

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.

**SWISS RIFLE CLUB CAPE TOWN**

The Swiss Rifle Club Cape Town can be found on <https://www.facebook.com/www.swissclub.co.za>.  
 President: *Dierk Lüthi*, [hdluthi@gmail.com](mailto:hdluthi@gmail.com) & [dierk@telkom.co.za](mailto:dierk@telkom.co.za).  
 net; C 0834414626

Shooting takes place mostly at the SA Navy 'Klawer Valley' range off Red Hill road above Simon's Town. Dates and times are listed on the Facebook page.

**SWISS CLUB NATAL**

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

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

\*For up-to-date information regarding times/venues/directions, please visit our most informative website [www.swissclubnatal.org.za](http://www.swissclubnatal.org.za)

**SWISS CLUB PORT ELIZABETH**

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