



**EMBASSY OF SOUTH AFRICA
RUSKA 65, 100 00 PRAGUE 10
NEWSLETTER - March 2019 (No. 3)**

WORD BY THE AMBASSADOR



Dear friends of the South African Embassy,

Welcome to the latest issue of our monthly newsletter. The month of March was once again a busy month full of various meetings and happenings. With the arrival of the first spring days our work load equally increased and we engaged ourselves in several interesting events. This month was especially a month of courtesy calls for me in order to maintain, strengthen and further develop the friendly relations existing not only between the South African Embassy and other Embassies in Prague, but also within respectable institutes in the Czech Republic such as the Charles University. Also, the Spotlight on Africa roadshow – in which our Embassy participated - is an example how we continue to promote South Africa as a preferred tourism destination to the Czech citizens.

*HE Ms Naomi Ribbon Mosholi, Ambassador
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the
Republic of South Africa to the Czech Republic*

DIPLOMATIC NEWS

Courtesy Calls

During the past month, Ambassador Mosholi continued paying several courtesy calls on fellow Ambassadors accredited to the Czech Republic.

These included the French Ambassador H.E. Mr. Roland Galharague, the German Ambassador

H.E. Mr. Christoph Israng , the Vietnamese Ambassador H.E. Mr. Minh Tuan Ho and the American Ambassador H.E. Mr. Stephen King. On March 7th, Ambassador accepted



Ambassador Mosholi at the front of the International Relations Office of the Charles University

an invitation from the Ambassador of Lebanon H.E. Mrs. Rola Hamdan to a courtesy dinner organized in her honour at the Lebanese Residence. Ambassador Mosholi also paid a courtesy call on PhDr. Lenka Škrábalová, Head of International Relations Department of the Charles University. Accompanied by Mr. Johan Oberholzer (Counsellor) the two parties discussed possible areas of future cooperation between the South African Embassy in Prague and the University.



Ambassador handing over a South African token to Ms. Lenka Škrábalová, Head of International Relations Department of the Charles University



Mr. Paddington Tucker and Ms. Karpíšková at the Welcoming Evening prior to the launch of the Spotlight on Africa

important African tour operators in order to attract possible future visitors to the African Continent. In association with the South African Airways representative Ms. Tereza Prokúpková and Mr. Paddington Tucker from Travel Advance, the South African Embassy was represented by Mr. Johan Oberholzer and Ms. Michaela Karpíšková.



Ms. Karpíšková, Ms. Marciová and Mr. Stifter at the South African Embassy table at the Spotlight on Africa Roadshow

Events

Spotlight on Africa

This month's main cultural and tourism event was the "Spotlight on Africa Roadshow", which took place on 26 March at the King's Court Hotel. The Spotlight Roadshow workshops aims to promote tourism to the African Continent among the Central European travellers. Prague – among other European cities such as Budapest, Warsaw and Krakow – hosted



International Women's Day



As part of International Women's Day celebrated worldwide, Ambassador Mosholi accepted an invitation on 1 March from JUDr. Vojtěch Filip, Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic for a meeting with "Lady-Ambassadors" in honour of this special day. Furthermore, Ambassador also

attended a discussion organized by the Ambassador of France H.E. Mr. Roland Galharague at the premises of the Embassy of France. The discussion held on 7 March focused on the topic of “gender parity in the positions of power” and was followed by a reception.

Presentation on whales



Ms. Nevěčeralová giving a presentation on Southern Right Whales at the South African Embassy

On 12 March, the Embassy welcomed Ms. Petra Nevěčeralová, PhD candidate attached to the Charles University. Ms Nevěčeralová, as part of her studies, visits South Africa regularly where she is cooperating with the University of Pretoria in a research project on the “Southern Right Whale”. Ms Nevěčeralová delivered a very impressive presentation to the Head of Mission and Embassy staff on her studies thus far.



Ambassador Mosholi and Ms. Petra Nevěčeralová after the presentation at the South African Embassy

St. Patrick’s Day Celebration

As March 17th is throughout the world known as St. Patrick’s Day and at the same time Ireland’s National Day, Ambassador Mosholi attended a reception organized by the Ambassador of Ireland H.E. Mr. Charles Sheehan at the Residence of the Mayor of Prague on March 15th.



Discussion on the Israeli Nationality Law

Organized by the Institute of International Relations in Prague on March 19th, Ambassador Mosholi accompanied by Mr. Oberholzer attended a lecture on the Israeli Nationality Law, which has been passed recently. The discussion was moderated by the Head of the Centre for International Law Ms. Veronika Bilíková.

Meetings

- On 7 March 2019 Mr. Chris Pearce from the Czech Cricket Academy met with the Ambassador at the Chancery in order to discuss some future cooperation between the Mission and the Academy to promote of people-to-people diplomacy in the Czech Republic through sport.
- This month’s Africa Group meeting took place at the Embassy of Egypt on 18 March to discuss the annual Africa Week in Prague, which will be held in the month of May.

- Mr. Johan Oberholzer and Mr. Vivian Ncongwane attended the Launching Event of the annual “Diplomatic Cup Relay” – another very popular and well attended event, in which our Embassy will participate in on 26 June 2019. The Launching event took place at the premises of the Embassy of Italy on 14 March.
- On 26 March Mr. Oberholzer – on behalf of the Ambassador, attended a traditional meeting with the Diplomatic Corps accredited in the Czech Republic at the invitation of Mrs. Marta Nováková, Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic;

EMBASSY NEWS

During the last weekend of March, Mr. Oberholzer and Mr. Ncongwane participated in the Prague Park Race – a 14km cross-country run in the Průhonice Park. The Embassy is exceptionally proud of their achievement.



Mr. Ncongwane and Mr. Oberholzer at the Prague Park Race

SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS

SADC Solidarity Conference with Western Sahara Commits Support to the Sahawawi People



Participants at the SADC Solidarity Conference

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said the people of Western Sahara had been deprived of the most fundamental right of self-determining their own destiny. “We are here to hear from the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic and [discuss] what we can do for them in advancing their cause. While we are here to express our unwavering solidarity for the just cause of our brother and sisters, any action going forward must be decided upon by the Saharawi people,” he said. President Ramaphosa was addressing the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Solidarity Conference with Western Sahara by Heads of State and Government on 26 March 2019. The President said it was fitting that the conference was held at the OR Tambo Building, which was named after South

South African President H.E. Mr. Ramaphosa at the SADC Solidarity Conference



African liberation icon Oliver Reginald Tambo, who supported the self-determination of the Western Sahara. He said South Africa would continue to encourage all parties to engage in fruitful discussions in an effort to bring an end to the deprivation of the Western Sahara people and their displacement.

Two South African Wines on list of the World's Most Admired Wine Brands



Each year, Drinks International, a United Kingdom drinks publication, announces its most admired wine brands. The results for this year were announced on 17 March during a special awards evening at the Steigenberger Park Hotel in Düsseldorf in Germany. Two South African wine brands appear on this year's top 50 list, selected by over 200 of some of the most renowned names in the global wine industry, and strengthened by the expertise of well-known specialist wine market research and consultancy firm, Wine Intelligence, that helped conduct the 2019 survey. Number 47 on the list was Nederburg Wines in Paarl. Niël Groenewald, MD of Nederburg says, "We are delighted by this news and especially thankful to our viticulture and winemaking teams for their zealous focus on innovation, not merely for the sake of newness, but to see how they can continually improve what they do." Just two spots up in

number 45 sits KWV, another iconic South African wine and spirits producer that was founded in the same year that Nelson Mandela was born (1918). Although KWV is renowned for its brandy, it also produces Roodeberg, The Mentors, Laborie, Cathedral Cellar and the KWV Classic Collection. Among other wine producers on the list are Penfolds (Australia), Torres (Spain), Villa Maria (New Zealand), Concho Y Toro (Chile), and French icon M. Chapoutier.

Foreign Direct Investment into SA Jumps to five-year high

Foreign direct investment into South Africa jumped to a five-year high in 2018 as President Cyril Ramaphosa's efforts to attract US\$100 billion of investment over five years gathered pace.

Direct investment inflows increased to R70,7 billion in 2018 from R26,8 billion in 2017, the South African Reserve Bank said in its Quarterly Bulletin, released on Wednesday, 20 March 2019, in Pretoria.

President Ramaphosa hosted an investment summit in October in which companies, including Daimler AG's Mercedes Benz unit, pledged to invest US\$20 billion in South Africa. The country, whose economy hasn't expanded by more than 2% since 2013, also got commitments from China, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

Direct investment by South African companies abroad jumped to R23,3 billion in the fourth quarter, from R13 billion in the prior three months after a domestic insurer acquired a company abroad, the bank said. Sanlam, South Africa's largest property and casualty insurer, bought out Morocco's Saham Finances SA in the continent's biggest insurance transaction of 2018. Foreign investors sold a net R33,9 billion in stocks and bonds in the fourth quarter compared with an inflow of R17,9 billion in the three months to September 30.

CZECH NEWS

Czechs celebrates 20 years of NATO Membership

The Czech Republic is marking the 20th anniversary of its entry into NATO on March 12th, 1999. It joined the alliance together with Poland and Hungary in NATO's first expansion eastwards after the fall of communism in Central and Eastern Europe. The celebrations, which included gatherings, debates and exhibitions, were culminating at Prague Castle where President Miloš Zeman hosted heads of state, NATO representatives and foreign guests. Foreign visitors, government officials and NATO representatives had been addressing a security conference held to mark the anniversary. In his speech, Prime Minister Andrej Babiš highlighted the fact that NATO membership is in the Czech Republic's vested interest since it provides a guarantee of security. He said the Czech Republic would meet its commitment to spend two percent of the country's GDP on defence by 2024. Speakers addressing the conference cited international terrorism, Russia's expansionist ambitions and cyber warfare as the main threats facing NATO today. Among the VIP guests attending the celebrations were the former US secretary of state Madeleine Albright who was a leading voice in advocating for expansion of the military alliance to central Europe. She is among 14 people who received the Medal of Merit Award for Diplomacy from Czech Foreign Minister Tomáš Petříček.



Prague Airport aims to be the best in Central Europe

Václav Havel Airport, also known simply as Prague Airport, has continued to attract more passengers every year since 2013 and a number of new projects ranging from transport, commercial infrastructure and customer service are expected to boost its competitiveness with other regional airport hubs. I asked the airport's spokesman, Roman Pacvoň, about the airport's plans for the future. The first steps of anyone who has visited Prague from abroad have likely led from Václav Havel International Airport. The airport has been in service since 1937 and last year alone its two runways transported more than 16.8 million passengers on 155,000 flights. Its position as the most important airport in the Czech Republic is more or less indomitable, but its spokesman Roman Pacvoň, says the management's targets reach higher. "We want to be one of the biggest and most important airports in Central Europe, so when it comes to our competition, it is airports such as Warsaw, Budapest and Vienna. This is the direction we want to take." Within this challenge, Prague is closely competing with its former communist neighbours. Skyranx's top 100 World Airports list, which uses a complex measuring methodology ranging from ease of transit to the friendliness of staff, lists the Czech capital's main airport at number 92, three spots ahead of Warsaw and two spots behind Budapest.

