



**EMBASSY OF SOUTH AFRICA
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NEWSLETTER – July-August-September 2020 (No. 03)**

WORD BY THE AMBASSADOR



Dear Friends of the South African Embassy,

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter, which offers an insight to our events and meetings during the months of July, August and September. Despite the ongoing threat posed by the COVID-19 virus, our efforts and hard work are continuously ongoing and in this combined issue you will be able to read about the latest news and happenings at our Mission. Significant South African national holidays were celebrated in recent months and we considered it our priority to emphasize and focus on each day's legacy and significance. Therefore, you will find many interesting facts and information about the International Nelson Mandela Day, National Women's Day and Heritage Day in this edition. I wish you a pleasant reading and good health.

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



DIPLOMATIC NEWS

Regional Visit to Safari Park Dvůr Králové

Annually, the Safari Park in Dvůr Králové in the Czech Republic organises an “African Weekend” to introduce countries from the African continent to Czech citizens. The highly popular and well attended event offers the possibility for African cultures to meet and interact with local residents. With authentic presentations of local cuisines, dances and crafts, the invited guests are each year able to experience the spirit of Africa in the centre of

**Ambassador
Mosholi with Mr.
Přemysl Rabas
and his wife at the
Safari Park in
Dvůr Králové**



Europe. Ambassador Mosholi attended the “African Weekend” in Dvůr Králové on 18th July, as she was personally invited to the event by the institution’s Director, Mr. Přemysl Rabas. Mr. Rabas, along with Mrs. Markéta Grůňová from the International Department of the Safari Park, welcomed



Ambassador Mosholi with her daughter at the Safari Park Dvůr Králové

Ambassador Mosholi and briefed her on a number of development projects at the Zoo and highlighted its main focus namely that of animals originating from Africa. Ambassador Mosholi reminded those present that 18th July was also International Nelson Mandela Day. After the briefing, the Ambassador and her entourage were taken on a short safari tour of the Zoo. Through the event the African continent received the deserved focus and attention in promoting its different cultures while also highlighting the importance of wildlife conservation, especially relating to the critically endangered African rhino.



Ambassador Mosholi with Mrs. Marie Imbrová at the Safari Park Dvůr Králové

Working lunch with Mr. Růžička

Mr. Vilém Růžička, President of the SA-Czech Chamber of Commerce was invited by Ambassador Mosholi to the Official Residence for an official working lunch on 25th August. With Mr. Oberholzer also present, they discussed the terms of forward planning and promotion of economic ties between South Africa and the Czech Republic with the main focus on strengthening the cooperation between the Embassy and the SA-Czech Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Růžička briefed Ambassador and Mr. Oberholzer on the latest developments concerning investments in South Africa. In Africa, South Africa is the Czech Republic’s largest trading partner.



Ambassador Mosholi, Mr. Oberholzer and Mr. Růžička having lunch at the Official Residence

SHORT NEWS

- ✚ In order to discuss the current situation and the upcoming events, Ambassador Mosholi and Mr. Oberholzer had a virtual meeting with Mrs. Nicol Adamcová, Director of Sub-Saharan department of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 24th of August.

- ✚ On the last day of August, Ambassador Mosholi attended a lecture at the premises of the Charles University on "Recent discoveries and archeological projects in Egypt" by prof. Dr. Khaled El-Anany, the Egyptian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, which was a prequel on the launching exhibition "King of the Sun."
- ✚ On the same day, Ambassador Mosholi received a courtesy call from H.E. Mrs. Ayesha Rekni, Ambassador of Canada.
- ✚ Ambassador Mosholi and Mr. Oberholzer had a business breakfast with Mr. Neville Parry from Woodcote company on 1st September.
- ✚ On 3rd of September, a Book of Condolence was signed by Ambassador Mosholi at the Embassy of India in order to honor the late Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, former President of the Republic of India, who recently passed away.
- ✚ Ambassador Mosholi participated in a virtual conference which aimed to provide an update on the Covid-19 situation and the activities of the WHO in this area. The virtual briefing and discussion was presented by Dr. Srđan Matić, WHO Representative and Head of the Country Office to the Czech Republic and it took place on 16th September.



Ambassador Mosholi and Mr. Oberholzer having breakfast with Mr. Neville Parry

EMBASSY NEWS

National Women's Day



Ambassador Mosholi giving a speech on the occasion of National Women's Day

As the South African National Women's Day was celebrated on the 9th of August and the whole month is known as "Women's Month", the Embassy staff gathered for an informal Coffee & Cake meeting in order to honor the South African women who fought against apartheid. Ambassador Mosholi shared her valuable reflections on the topic. This date commemorates a significant march of approximately 20,000 women who took part in a demonstration in 1956 in front of the Union Buildings, seat of the Apartheid regime in Pretoria. Thousands of women petitioned on this important day against laws that were to further restrict their rights and were ready to combat the racial inequality and the subordination of women in South Africa. South Africa continues its fight for women's right, including ending gender based violence.

The Embassy staff on the National Women's Day gathering



Heritage Day and farewell braai



Ambassador Mosholi dressed in a traditional dress on the occasion of Heritage Day

On Thursday 24th September, Ambassador Mosholi hosted the transferred and local staff for a Heritage Day celebration at the Official Residence. Ambassador used the opportunity to address staff members – in both Czech and English – on the background and history of Heritage Day in South Africa. Formerly known as Shaka Day, Heritage Day reminds South Africans of the importance of diversity



Ms. Madiba with the leaving Ms. Rubešová

and culture. Throughout the month, South Africans across the spectrum are encouraged to celebrate their culture and the diversity of their beliefs and traditions, in the wider context of a nation building. Millions of South Africans remember their ancestors,

celebrate their origins and revive centuries-old traditions. This day not only commemorates historical events, but also supports the idea that South Africans are one nation. Therefore, the holiday is held every year in the spirit of festivities, festivals and various concerts, during which everyone interested can admire the rich cultural heritage of this country.



Ms. Madiba, Mr. Oberholzer and Ambassador Mosholi at the Heritage Day Braai

The Embassy Staff members contributed typical dishes and other delicacies for the event, wore traditional outfits and shared some background stories about their heritage while enjoying a traditional South African “braai” and “Chakalaka”. The event was also used to say farewell to one of the local staff members of the Embassy, Ms Mirka Rubesova who retired in March after 29 years’ of dedicated service. Thank you, Mirka and all the best!



Heritage Day Braai at the Official Residence

SA NEWS

Nelson Mandela International Day - Celebrations in the shadow of death: South Africa remembers Mandela, his daughter succumbed to coronavirus

July 18 in South Africa and around the world is dedicated to the memory of Nobel Prize winner and apartheid fighter Nelson Mandela. He would now celebrate his 102nd birthday. This year, however, his memory is somewhat tarnished by the fact that Mandela's daughter Zindzi died a few days earlier. The causes included the covid-19 infection. Mandela's 59-year-old daughter died on Monday 13 July. Information about the infection reached the public a day later, where her son Zondwa announced it. "This does not mean that she died of complications related to the covid, but only that she tested positive," Zondwa Mandela told CNN. "Several other tests have been performed and they will provide us with further information on what could lead to her untimely death," he added. Mandela's daughter Zindzi first became more widely known thanks to her speech in 1985, when she publicly read her father's letter rejecting the then South African government's offer of release. For many years she devoted herself to philanthropic activities and collaborated with several organizations, where she held leading positions. In her business activities, she held the positions of director and president of several companies and holdings. She also served as ambassador. At the time of her death, she was ambassador to Denmark. Lawyer Nelson Mandela is considered the "father of the nation" in South Africa. He was probably the most famous fighter against apartheid and did not hesitate to actively oppose him. For this activity he was

sentenced to prison in 1962 and spent twenty-seven years there. After his release in 1990, he became involved in negotiations with the then President Frederik de Klerk. It culminated in the announcement of free elections, in which his African National Congress won and Mandela spent 1994-1999 as South Africa's first black president. In 1993, together with de Klerk, he received the Nobel Peace Prize. He died in 2013.



Zindzi Mandela, Nelson Mandela and Ahmed Kathrada

President Ramaphosa declares special official funeral for George Bizos

President Cyril Ramaphosa has honoured the late human rights lawyer and social activist, Advocate George Bizos, by declaring a Special Official Funeral Category 1 for him. President Ramaphosa authorised that the national flag be flown at half-mast at every flag station in the country from Saturday, 12 September, until the evening of the Special Official Funeral on Thursday, 17 September. The renowned human rights lawyer passed away on the afternoon of 9 September 2020 at the age of 92. Bizos was born in Kirani, Greece. He came to South Africa with his father in 1941. He dedicated his legal career to fighting for basic human rights, while representing numerous high-profile activists in political trials, including



The late Mr. George Bizos

Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and others accused in both the 1956 Treason and 1963 Rivonia trials. President Ramaphosa described Bizos as one of the best legal minds in South Africa, who contributed immensely to the attainment of democracy. “George Bizos was a well-known name and he had an incisive legal mind. He was also one of the architects of our Constitution, who contributed immensely. He will be sorely missed. “We bow our heads in honour of the contribution he made to our democracy,” said President Ramaphosa at the time of Bizos’ passing.

Letter from the President 21.9.2020



Dear Fellow South African,
The United Nations will this week begin the 75th session of its General Assembly, where the nations of the world gather to seek collective solutions to global challenges. In any other year, heads of state and government would travel to the UN headquarters in New York to address the General Assembly. But this year, because of the coronavirus pandemic, this gathering is taking place virtually, using technology to bridge the distance between the capitals of the world. As South Africa, we will be addressing the General Assembly by videoconference from the Union Buildings and will be participating in several other meetings. This is an important moment for the United Nations. It is 75 years since its formation following the destruction of the Second World War. The countries of the

world were determined that never again should such a human tragedy be allowed to happen. They believed that through an organisation like the UN, the world’s problems could be peacefully resolved through cooperation. As the world confronts another global crisis, this time caused by a virus, the United Nations remains as important and relevant as ever. The UN has played a vital role in supporting cooperation among countries and international organisations like the World Health Organisation as they have worked to tackle the coronavirus pandemic. It has focused attention on the most vulnerable countries and those parts of society most badly affected by the pandemic. Importantly, the UN has enabled countries to focus on the work that needs to be done to not only to rebuild economies, but to do so in a manner that advances the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The UN is leading the effort to ensure that the world that emerges from COVID is better, fairer and more peaceful. In the 75 years of its existence, the UN has proven the value of cooperation and solidarity. To resolve our global challenges – be they health emergencies, transnational crime, conflict and war, climate change, migration or natural disasters – we must work together. It is only through multilateralism that we can forge common strategies for the benefit of all. We therefore need to strengthen bodies like the UN, ensure they are properly resourced and that they are representative. We must use this anniversary to push ahead with the reform of the UN and particularly its Security Council, which does not give equal voice to the different regions of the world. As South Africa, we will use our virtual presence in New York to continue to advocate for Africa – a continent of more than a billion people – to have permanent

representation on the UN Security Council. We recognise that global peace is not just about a world free of conflict, but one free of poverty, inequality and underdevelopment. It is a world of inclusive economic growth and shared prosperity. By providing all the world's people with the means to live secure and productive lives, we are laying the best foundation for peace and stability. One of the greatest challenges to the achievement of this goal is the continued exclusion of half of the world's population through discrimination and marginalisation. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Conference on Women, which placed the emancipation of women firmly on the global agenda. It is a valuable opportunity to not only review the progress made over the last quarter century, but most importantly to clearly outline the actions we must now take to ensure that women occupy their rightful place as equals in all areas of life in all societies. For Africa, this means, among other things, that we must intensify measures to empower women economically. This is in line with the African Union decision to dedicate this decade to the financial inclusion of women. We therefore welcome the opportunity later this week to take part in a panel of G7 and African countries on women's digital financial inclusion in Africa. It will look at how women can take advantage of technological advances to start businesses, trade and find meaningful employment. There is much that can be achieved by ensuring that women have greater access to affordable financial services and education. This should take place alongside other measures we are pursuing on the continent, such as efforts to increase the portion of public procurement set aside for women-owned businesses. Our message is that unless women are brought into the mainstream of the economy they will continue to bear the brunt of exclusion

and be vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. Our message is that a world that empowers women is a prosperous and sustainable world. This sitting of the UN General Assembly must also address the climate change crisis. As the world rebuilds in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic we have an opportunity to place the global economy on a low-carbon, climate resilient path. We should be building green economies, not just for the sake of environmental sustainability but because of the opportunities for job creation and growth. This pandemic has presented the world with a choice – between the global cooperation envisaged in the UN Charter or the pursuit of narrow self-interest. It is a choice between prosperity for all or for a just a few. At the 75th UN General Assembly, the leaders of the world have an opportunity to begin rebuilding a new global order based on justice and equality. By drawing on the spirit of solidarity, friendship and unity of purpose that has long defined the United Nations, we will set a clear path towards lasting peace and sustainable development.

Best regards,
Cyril Ramaphosa

CZECH NEWS

Czech Statehood Day (St. Wenceslas Day)



**St. Wenceslas
on his horse**

Czech Statehood Day is a public holiday celebrated throughout the Czech Republic on 28th September. Every year the Czech president awards St. Wenceslas medals to people who contributed to Czech

statehood. This ceremony takes place at Prague Castle, where a memorial wreath is placed on the statue of St. Wenceslas. In addition, a pilgrimage takes place at Stará Boleslav, the site of St. Wenceslas' murder. Czech Statehood Day marks the assassination of Duke Vaclav Wenceslas of Bohemia (western Czech Republic). During his seven-year reign in the 10th century, Wenceslas was known for spreading Christianity among his subjects and helping Prague become the center of trade in central Europe. Wenceslas was murdered by his brother Boleslav on September 28; historians disagree on the precise year, which is thought to be between 929 and 935. Wenceslas was canonized as a saint due to his martyr's death as well as several purported miracles that occurred in the wake of his murder. He is traditionally considered the patron saint of the Czech people. Legends and fictional accounts have sprung up over the centuries about "Good King Wenceslas."

South African rookie Binder wins Czech MotoGP on 'insane' bike

Brad Binder created a series of firsts as he won the Czech MotoGP on Sunday, 9th August 2020 ahead of Italian Franco Morbidelli on Yamaha's satellite SRT bike and Frenchman Johan Zarco on a Ducati-Avintia. It was the 24-year-old Binder's first MotoGP win in his third race, it was also a first victory at the elite level by a South African and for the KTM team. "This was a day I dreamed about since I was a little boy and today it came true," Binder said. "My team put an absolutely insane motorbike underneath me this weekend. I had no idea we were capable of winning but I had a feeling it could be good." Frenchman Fabio Quartararo (Yamaha-SRT), winner of the

first two rounds of the season and world championship leader, finished seventh to increase his lead in the riders' standings to 17 points over Spaniard Maverick Vinales (Yamaha) who was only 14th in the GP. With reigning champion Marc Marquez still absent nursing a broken arm, Binder followed Quartararo in grabbing his chance. Binder was the first rookie MotoGP winner since Marquez in 2013 and he was followed home by two more surprising front-runners. For Morbidelli it was a first podium finish. "It was a nice race overall, I started well, I did what was in my plan, to make my rhythm and don't overcook the tyres," he said, adding that as Binder pulled clear he decided to play safe. "I won't do anything silly and try to bring the bike to the end and catch my first podium." Meanwhile Zarco held on to third despite disintegrating tyres and a penalty imposed for a collision with Pol Esparago which put the Spanish KTM man out of the race. "He went wide. I was in, keeping the line and when we touch," said Zarco. "I did not expect it and I think that he crashed." The officials judged the Frenchman was at fault and he had to ride a 'long lap' which meant following an outside lane on the big seventh turn. "When I did the long lap, I expected three riders to overtake me. No one overtook and at that moment, I said, OK that can be good," Zarco said. While it was Zarco's seventh podium it was a first for Ducati-Avintia the team he joined after he struggled with KTM last season before leaving in midseason.

South African Brad Binder at the MotoGP in Brno

