



**EMBASSY OF SOUTH AFRICA
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NEWSLETTER - April/May/June 2021 (No. 02)**

WORD BY THE AMBASSADOR



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

**Dear Friends of the South African
Embassy,**

Let me welcome you to the latest edition of our newsletter, which will offer you a close look at all the meetings and events that our embassy has taken part in during the last three months of April, May, and June.

Past months had brought some sunlight and even a hope of the better pandemic management in the world, but it is more than clear that there is still a long and a tough journey laying in front of us. With these thoughts, we have decided to put even more energy and strengths into cultivating our mission here and we have involved ourselves in the happenings and events that have to strengthen our ties with the friends of South Africa here in the Czech Republic.

These significant months gave us an opportunity to celebrate our legacy thanks to the Africa Day, emphasize diplomatic cooperation but also saying goodbye to our prominent colleague Mr. Johan Oberholzer who moved back home to South Africa.



Ambassador NR Mosholi with Mr. Oberholzer

I hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter and above all, I wish you good health in these uncertain times.

DIPLOMATIC NEWS

Africa Day and associated events

Every year on May 25th we are excited to celebrate Africa Day which refers to the foundation of the Organization of African Unity – the cornerstone of today's African Union. South African Embassy to the Czech Republic was a proud member who took part in these celebrations and commemorating the important legacy of the strong union. On this occasion, several events were held by various organisations and Ambassador NR Mosholi represented the South African Embassy at every happening.

Referring to this important holiday that celebrates African countries, culture, development and traditions, the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed our embassy that Africa is an important partner of the Czech Republic and the European Union neighbour and that the Czech Republic welcomes that socio-economic development and stability of the African continent.



Ambassador NR Mosholi and Mr. Oberholzer celebrating the Africa Day with Embassy staff

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs pointed out that during the challenging times of the COVID-19, it has been crucial to cooperate more closely than ever before and to jointly manage the deep negative effects of the pandemic. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs believes that the Czech Republic's relations with Africa are enhancing trust in all relevant areas, including political, economic, development, scientific and cultural collaboration.

Africa Group virtual meeting



Ambassador Mosholi during the virtual Africa group meeting

During this virtual meeting on April 12 representatives of African countries in the Czech Republic met in order to celebrate and commemorate an important day that unites African countries. Ambassador Mosholi with representatives of African countries discussed issues related to the development of African countries and the deepening of their cooperation.

They also pointed out how important it is to maintain and promote their traditions and culture.

Africa Day seminar with OECD, African Ambassadors of Prague and MFA

As part of the Africa Day celebrations Ambassador Mosholi took part in the online seminar organised by the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs on June 28. Participants during the virtual meeting and presentation of an interesting OECD and African Union report: „Africa’s Development Dynamics 2021.“ The main topic of this year’s report was presented by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Martin Tlapa. He spoke about the digitalization as a powerful tool of transformation of Africa towards better job opportunities and crisis resilience. Ambassador Mosholi enriched this online seminar with a speech informing participants about her views on the future possible development of African countries and the use of digitization for the creation of new jobs.

Glass of wine with the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Jakub Kulhánek



Ambassador Mosholi with Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Kulhánek

Ambassador Mosholi paid a visit to the new Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Jakub Kulhánek on June 17. Ambassador Mosholi and Minister Kulhánek met on June 16 at the official event where they spoke over a glass of wine about the further development of cooperation between The Republic of South Africa and the Czech Republic. They have discussed the economic advantages and socio-economic benefits of strengthening the bilateral relations between two countries.

Videoconference with Prague Student Summit



Ambassador Mosholi and Mr. Oberholzer participated in the virtual meeting of Prague Student Summit

Ambassador Mosholi participated in the Prague Student Summit which is an educational project of diplomatic simulations. The 26th season of the Student Summit which was organised by the Association for International Affairs (AMO) on April 8 gives the opportunity to more than 300 secondary school and university students to simulate high-level diplomatic negotiations through simulation of three organizations: the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the European Union. During the online meeting Ambassador Mosholi shared her share experience and knowledge about the

professions of diplomat and ambassador informed students of a great degree of responsibility that the ambassadors and diplomats need to carry, the challenges they will meet but also about the satisfaction of a job well done and the privilege of representation of their home country.

Meeting with Ms. Barbora Žák Vlasová, Czech Development Agency

Ambassador NR Mosholi hosted a meeting with Ms. Barbora Žák Vlasová, Manager of International Cooperation Section of the Czech Development Agency on April 24. During the gathering, the Counsellor at the Mission was also present and Ms. Žák Vlasová used the opportunity to inform Ambassador Mosholi about the Czech Development Agency's investment policy. The discussion mentioned a special B2B program designed by the Czech Development Agency in order to support starting businesses all around the world.



Ambassador Mosholi during the meeting with Ms. Barbora Žák Vlasová of the Czech Development Agency

Ms. Žák Vlasová introduced and provided Ambassador Mosholi with details and examples of already ongoing projects on the African continent in Zambia, Kenya, and Ethiopia. Ambassador Mosholi suggested the possibility of future cooperation of South Africa in B2B program especially in agricultural features.

LIST OF EVENTS

- **Meeting with Ms. Kateřina Švábová of Hilton Hotel on April 28**
- **Women HOM's virtual meeting with Defence DM Mr. Jan Havránek on May 4**
- **Webinar with the DM of DIRCO Mr. Alvin Botes on celebrating multilateralism and South Africa's role on the United Nations Security Council and Chairship of the African Union on May 12**
- **Indian Ambassador H.E. Mr. Shri Hemant H. Kotalwar paying a courtesy call on Ambassador Mosholi on May 17**
- **Farewell outdoor reception for the leaving Ambassador of Luxembourg H.E. Mr. Gérard Phillips on June 16**
- **Reception on the occasion of bestoval of title - invitation from the Italian Ambassador on June 17**
- **"Tbilisi Interiors" book presentation on June 25**

EMBASSY NEWS

Celebration of Freedom Day

In order to celebrate a significant South African public holiday – Freedom Day (April 27), Ambassador Mosholi hosted the diplomats and local staff for a gathering event. During the braai, Ambassador Mosholi used the opportunity to inform the staff about the history of this important public holiday that celebrates freedom and commemorates the first post-apartheid elections held on that day in 1994. These elections were the first non-racial democratic elections where every adult individual had a right to participate in the elections. These first democratic elections led to Nelson Mandela becoming the President of South Africa. This day gives us the opportunity to commemorate important historic events but also reminds us that South Africans are one united nation that fought bravely to achieve freedom and equal rights for everyone.



Ambassador Mosholi welcomed diplomats and local staff at the Official Residence during the celebration of Freedom Day

Welcome gathering for Mrs. Mashiloane and family



Ambassador NR Mosholi welcomed Mrs. Mashiloane and her family in the Czech Republic

The important celebration of Freedom Day met with a friendly and official welcome of new diplomat and colleague at the Embassy on April 28. Ambassador Mosholi with the support of local staff was glad to welcome Mrs. Mashiloane and her wonderful family at the grounds of the Embassy of South Africa and in the Czech Republic.

During the traditional South African “braai” the Embassy staff shared with Mrs. Mashiloane the information of traditions in the Czech Republic, diplomats gave their useful tips to Mrs. Mashiloane about living in Prague and everyone shared their experience on cultural and social heritage and background of South Africa and the Czech Republic.

16.06. Youth Day

Ambassador Mosholi, diplomats, and the local staff remembered the important South African public holiday - Youth Day. This important day commemorates on June 16 a significant student march that resulted in a wave of protests across the country known as the Soweto uprising of 1976. Ambassador Mosholi shared with the Embassy staff her valuable opinions and reflections on this important historic event.

29.06. Farewell braai for Mr. Oberholzer



Ambassador NR Mosholi with Mr. Oberholzer

After four years of close cooperation, Ambassador Mosholi and the Embassy staff had to say goodbye to Mission Counselor Mr. Johan Oberholzer and his two sons, Neil and Marnus. During his stay in Prague Mr. Oberholzer worked to strengthen political relations between South Africa and the Czech Republic, communicated and cooperated with representatives of the Czech economic sphere and South African entrepreneurs in the Czech Republic and tried to assist them in order to support their

presence in this European country. Among other things, he was able to act as a reliable colleague and responsible supervisor at the embassy. Ambassador Mosholi welcomed Mr. Oberholzer, Mr. Wagner, Mrs. Mashiloane, and local staff at the official Residence where a traditional South African braai was held. The farewell event gave everyone at the Embassy a chance to celebrate and remember the years of working together, the challenging tasks and obstacles we had to overcome and the successes we managed to achieve. Thank you, Mr. Oberholzer, and all the best!

SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS

Famous Youtuber, Dingo Dinkelman, raises hundreds of thousands for Landmark Conservation Project

South African Youtuber is using his reputation and popularity to save endangered species. Famous internet influencer Graham „Dingo“ Dinkelman known for surviving the deadly bite of a black mamba, escaping the crushing jaws of a Nile crocodile, or hunting for killer lions in the African bush, now managed to raise R750 000 in just 42 days for a major conservation project.

This conservationist is establishing ‘Dingo’s Animal Kingdom’, a safe haven in KZN’s Cato Ridge where people and animals can connect. This will also be a base for Dingo’s team to work with experts in protecting some of the globe’s most endangered animals.

“With any great venture, there is financial pressure and our next few stages are particularly expensive. We’re fortunate to have worldwide support from people who care about conservation work,” explained Dingo. “With this in mind, I decided to offer the opportunity for our supporters to be part of this initiative and set a challenge to raise the funds.”

The \$50 000 target was reached in 42 days – with an international investor committing a further \$200 000. Every sponsor who contributed \$1 000 or more will get a plaque installed at the haven. Dingo’s Animal Kingdom has also received support from RB Timber Group, Toyota South Africa, PMB Power Products, and The North Face.

With the groundbreaking planned for the next year, and an opening date around two years from now, the multi-functional facility will be a place for animals to roam free in their natural environment. Collaborating with other conservation institutions, this will be a base for demonstrations, training, and research.



Dingo Dinkelman

“The donation is a huge milestone for the park and we couldn’t have done it without the support of our fans,” said Dingo. “Anyone wanting to get involved with this project is welcome to get in touch with us.”

Letter from the President June 1st, 2021



Dear Fellow South African,

Later this week, I will be travelling to the United Kingdom to attend the G7 Leaders Summit. We have been invited as a guest country together with South Korea, Australia and India.

The summit will discuss how to promote future prosperity through free and fair trade, championing shared values and tackling climate change, but the global recovery from COVID-19 is likely to dominate the agenda.

In extending the invitation, the G7 group of countries acknowledge South Africa’s role in driving the continental response to COVID during our AU chairship, and the contribution it can make to global progress.

Much as we are a developing economy and despite facing considerable challenges given rise to by the pandemic on our society, we have done and will continue to do our best.

South Africa can hold its head high among the community of nations because we remain a country that is free and united and determined to succeed.

Gatherings such as the G7 are important opportunities for South Africa to promote its view of a fairer and more peaceful world. They are also an opportunity to promote our country as a destination in which to invest and do business, as a partner for development, and as an ally in resolving the most pressing social and political issues facing humankind. These gatherings also give us an opportunity to promote our continent as a destination for investment.

Our delegation to the G7 Summit will be able to talk about the progress we are making in overcoming the pandemic and the measures we have taken towards our national recovery that are slowly but steadily yielding results.

We will be able to talk about the green shoots of economic progress I spoke of in the Presidency Budget vote in Parliament last week. Among them are the tangible results of commitments made by this administration to resolve challenges that have long hindered our economic growth.

I will be presenting the clear signals that our country is emerging from the devastation wrought by the pandemic. These signals include a strengthening currency, a record trade surplus, and growth in mining,

financial services and manufacturing. We can also talk about the lifechanging opportunities being provided to our people through the Presidential Employment Stimulus, which has directly benefited nearly 700,000 people since it was launched eight months ago. We can reflect that there is progress towards greater policy and regulatory certainty in important economic sectors such as energy and telecommunications.

The G7 Leaders Summit is an opportunity to seek broader support for the struggle we are waging alongside India and more than 100 other countries to achieve a temporary waiver of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property agreement at the WTO to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. This will enable countries to manufacture their own vaccines and pave the way for the development of a local pharmaceutical manufacturing industry in our own country and on the continent.

The message I will be taking to the G7 Summit will be one of hope about the prospects for our country's recovery, and indeed the global recovery.

But not everyone in this country is ready for that message.

When times are tough, it is easy to be pessimistic.

It is understandable that citizens may be frustrated by the slow pace of change, and feel that our problems appear to be intractable. Our high rate of unemployment, for example, has not improved since the global financial crisis more than a decade

ago and was made much worse by the pandemic.

But sometimes we are so absorbed by our shortcomings, that we often fail to acknowledge what we are doing right and where things are improving.

We are making progress in resolving many of our challenges, from corruption to energy shortages to the obstacles that discourage investment. The pace of reform is picking up.

We do not take the patience and resilience of the South African people for granted. We acknowledge our shortcomings as a government and are working to remedy them.

Optimism is the foundation of progress and hope is the companion of development.

Cynical though some among us may be, let the progress we are making in overcoming the immediate crisis motivate us to do even better.

Our democracy was founded in hope where there seemingly was none. We emerged from a desperate situation that threatened to engulf us and built a new nation. Over the last year and a half, we rallied together to fight the pandemic, united in the belief that better days would come.

Throughout the course of our history we have had setbacks and false starts. But our resilient nature allowed us to weather many storms. It is this drive and determination that must continue to propel us forward as

our country recovers socially, politically and economically.

Let us look ahead and move forward. Let us nurture the green shoots of progress.

Let us not only hope for better days, but let us work even harder to achieve them.

With best regards,

Cyril Ramaphosa

CZECH NEWS

Celebrating the 76th anniversary of the end of WWII in the Czech Republic: President Miloš Zeman and other top Czech politicians laid wreaths at the Vítkov National Memorial in Prague

On May 8 like most European countries, the Czech Republic celebrates the end of WWII in Europe as a national holiday.

Despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic many events commemorating the 76th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe were held in many different cities in the Czech Republic. Some of them went online to ensure the safety of local citizens.

Celebrations for example went on in the city of Pilsen, commemorating the city liberation by American forces in May 1945.

Top Czech politicians took part in commemorating the 76th anniversary at the Vítkov National Memorial in Prague, and

laid wreaths at the Grave of the unknown soldier. President Miloš Zeman arrived at the ceremony in a wheelchair, which he has recently started using.

Wreaths were also laid by heads of both houses of Czech parliament, Miloš Vystrčil and Radek Vondráček, Deputy Prime Minister Alena Schillerová, Defence Minister Lubomír Metnar, Chief-of-Staff Aleš Opat, Prague Mayor Zdeněk Hřib, and Cardinal Dominik Duka.



Czech President Miloš Zeman commemorating the 76th anniversary at the Vítkov National Memorial in Prague

Prime Minister Andrej Babiš did not take part in the ceremony this year as he is at an informal EU summit in Portugal. After he returns to Prague, he will pay tribute to the war victims at Olšany cemetery in Prague.

Vystrčil said the liberation left two traces in the country, the Soviet one and the American one. "We are lucky now that we can choose which way to go," Vystrčil told journalists. "I believe we will manage the decision-making so that there continues to be freedom and democracy in the Czech Republic."

Vondráček said it cannot be taken for granted that the Czech Republic was on the

side of the winning countries after World War Two. "We have to thank for this to our paratroopers, our pilots, our soldiers abroad, partisans, resistance fighters," Vondráček said. "Many of them were 18 or 20 years old and they were ready to lay down their lives."

Deputy Prime Minister Schillerová said the Czech Republic is a proud nation that fought both Nazism and also Communism, and is now coping with the current pandemic situation.

Defense Minister Metnar pointed out that a war like WWII must not be repeated. He said the courage of Czech soldiers and representatives of the domestic resistance movement should not be forgotten. He said he was glad that the commemorative ceremony could be more dignified this year as the epidemic situation in the country has improved.

Cardinal Duka said he laid a wreath to the memorial to RAF pilots at Prague-Klarov earlier today. He said people must be aware that the fight for Czech freedom took place on many fronts, and that it is still needed to fight for freedom today, too.

Due to current regulations surrounding the coronavirus epidemic, the public was not allowed to take part in the ceremony this year, and all the participants wore respirators.

Last year, politicians arrived at the Vítkov National Memorial individually so that they would not congregate due to previous epidemic regulations.

Czech chemical producer Draslovka Holding to buy cyanide factory in South Africa for 103 million dollars and invest another 46 million dollars into modernising the factory

The Czech chemicals producer Draslovka Holding will purchase a cyanide factory from Sasol South Africa Limited for 103 million dollars. The purchase is the first major investment by Draslovka on the African continent and according to spokesman Vít Kurfürst is part of the company's international expansion plan.

Company director Pavel Brůžek stated that Draslovka also plans to invest around 46 million dollars into modernising the factory, which should enable it to manufacture products that currently have to be imported South Africa. The funds will also be used to ensure the factory meets the highest international ecological standards.

Draslovka Holding is a company privately owned by four Czech families. Every year, the company produces around 74,000 tons of chemicals. Cyanide products make up about three-quarters of its annual revenue.

GALLERY

Celebrating Africa Day at the Embassy



Welcome gathering for Mrs. Mashiloane and family



Farewell event for Mr. Oberholzer



Indian Ambassador H.E. Mr. Shri Hemant H. Kotalwar paying a courtesy call on Ambassador Mosholi

