



SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY  
BELGIUM, BRUSSELS

April 2016

## SOUTH AFRICA ON THE MOVE

Volume: 2

www.gov.za | www.southafrica.net

### From the Ambassador's Desk

Dear Readers

In pursuit of the consolidation of the strategic partnership with the European Union (EU), the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, hosted Mme. Federica Mogherini, the High Representative of the EU on Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, for the 13th South Africa-EU Ministerial Political Dialogue (MPD) meeting in Pretoria on 26 February.

Minister Nkoana-Mashabane and HR Mogherini used the occasion to assess the implementation of the SA-EU Strategic Partnership, focusing on trade and investment, support for South Africa's key national priorities as articulated in the National Development Plan and to exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual concern. In this regard, both sides took note of the prevailing global economic challenges and the need for closer collaboration. The EU also expressed deep concern on the increasing levels of migration and security as well as the need to find sustainable solutions by consulting with a broad spectrum of stakeholders. Both sides expressed appreciation at progress made with regard to the negotiations of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA's) between the European Union and the SADC EPA States.

Concerning security issues, South Africa and the European Union agreed to intensify their co-operation to promote peace and security in Africa, based on the African Peace and Security Architecture. They also noted with concern the increase of terrorist attacks and the widening of the international terrorism network. In this regard, they agreed that the international community should intensify its efforts of collaboration to rid the world of this menace. Both parties agreed to enhance their interaction at multilateral fora to jointly work towards the realisation of a more equitable and inclusive global order in line with the UN adopted 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and on Climate Change.

The 13th SA-EU MPD meeting gave renewed momentum to the SA-EU relations. Following on the success of this meeting, it is anticipated that the 8th session of the SA-EU Summit will take place in Brussels during the course of 2016.



The months of February/March were punctuated by numerous diplomatic engagements, including, the AU High-Level Delegation of Heads of State and Government led by President Zuma, which undertook a successful mission to Burundi from 25 to 26 February 2016; the official launch of the United Nations High Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth (HLC HEEG) which was co-Chaired by President Jacob Zuma and the French President Francois Hollande in Lyon on 23 March 2016; and the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit (NSS 2016) held in Washington D.C, in the United States of America, from 31 March to 1 April 2016.

Following the terrorist attacks in Brussels on 22 March 2016, South Africa joined the international community in condemning these attacks and reiterated its stance that terrorism, in whatever form and from whichever quarter, cannot be condoned. In this regard, President Zuma conveyed a message of sympathy and solidarity to the government and people of the Kingdom of Belgium. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult moment.

Sincerely,  
Mxolisi Nkosi

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## SOUTH AFRICA PARTICIPATED IN NUCLEAR SECURITY SUMMIT HELD IN WASHINGTON D.C. FROM 31 MARCH TO 1 APRIL 2016

International Relations and Cooperation Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane led a South African delegation to the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit (NSS 2016) in Washington D.C, in the United States of America, from 31 March to 1 April 2016.

The Summit was convened as a follow-up to the previous Summits that were held in Washington in 2010, in Seoul in 2012 and in The Hague in 2014.

Through the NSS process, participating world leaders forged a common approach to nuclear security to, inter alia, deal with the threat posed by nuclear terrorism. They agreed on a set of commitments contained in the 2010 Washington Communiqué and Work Plan, the 2012 Seoul Communiqué and the 2014 Hague Communiqué in order to contribute towards a more secure nuclear world. The outcomes of these Summits seek to strengthen the issue of nuclear security.

South Africa is committed to promoting a multilateral approach to nuclear security which upholds the centrality of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United Nations, and which respects the international rule of law and the principles enshrined in the UN Charter. The 2016 Summit marked a transition from a dedicated leader-level process to subsequent efforts within the relevant international organizations such as the IAEA.

Amongst the pertinent issues that was discussed during the Summit were the following: Nuclear Security Threat Perceptions, National Actions to enhance Nuclear Security, International and Institutional Actions to Strengthen Nuclear Security.

[www.SAnews.gov.za](http://www.SAnews.gov.za)



## PRESIDENT ZUMA UNDERTOOK A WORKING VISIT TO FRANCE TO CO-CHAIR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL COMMISSION ON HEALTH EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH: 23 MARCH 2016

President Jacob Zuma undertook a Working Visit to France, Lyon, to Co-Chair the official launch of the United Nations High Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth (HLC HEEG) which took place on 23 March 2016.

The United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-moon, established the HLC HEEG following the adoption of United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/183, and invited President Zuma and President Hollande of France to co-chair the Commission.

The two leaders committed themselves to work with speed to realise the objectives of the Commission. The key objectives are; to come up with measures that will contribute to global inclusive economic growth, the creation of decent jobs and the achievement of universal health coverage.



In brief, the Commission will seek to:

- Recommend multi-sector responses and institutional reforms to develop, over the next 15 years, health human resources capacity for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC). These actions will enable inclusive economic growth by creating a sustainable local source of employment;
- Determine sources of financing and the conditions needed to maximize socio-economic returns from investments in health and social sector employment;
- Analyse the risks of global and regional imbalances and unequal distribution of health workers and assess the potential beneficial and adverse effects of international mobility; and
- Generate the political commitment from government and key partners necessary to support the implementation of the Commission's proposed actions.

A second meeting of the High-level Commission is envisaged to take place in New York on the margins of the UN General Assembly in September 2016, where-after the Commission is expected to submit its report to the UN Secretary-General. ([www.SAnews.gov.za](http://www.SAnews.gov.za) - <http://www.who.int/hrh/com-heeg/en/>)

## MINISTER NKOANA-MASHABANE HOSTED HER EU COUNTERPART ON 26 FEBRUARY 2016

International Relations and Cooperation Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane will lead a South African delegation to the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit (NSS 2016) to be held in Washington D.C, in the United States of America, from 31 March to 1 April 2016.

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, hosted Federica Mogherini, the High Representative of the EU on Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, for the 13th South Africa-EU Ministerial Political Dialogue meeting in Pretoria on 26 February.

The main objective of the Ministerial Political Dialogue was to assess the implementation of the SA-EU Strategic Partnership, focusing on trade and investment, support for South Africa's key national priorities as articulated in the National Development Plan and to share views on regional and global issues to improve and advance existing relations.

The 13th SA-EU Ministerial Political Dialogue Meeting set the framework for the Seventh SA-EU Summit, which is scheduled to take place later this year in Brussels.

During this meeting, both South Africa and the EU welcomed progress regarding the ongoing cooperation in a wide variety of areas covered by the Strategic Partnership and the Joint Action Plan.



The EU is South Africa's largest trading partner and largest foreign investor with over 2 000 EU companies operating within South Africa, creating over 350 000 jobs. South Africa and the EU have strong economic relations. [www.SANews.gov.za](http://www.SANews.gov.za)

## PRESIDENT ZUMA LED THE AFRICAN UNION (AU) HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION OF HEADS OF STATE TO BURUNDI ON 25 TO 26 FEBRUARY 2016

President Zuma led an AU High-Level Delegation of Heads of State and Government to Bujumbura from 25 to 26 February 2016, at the request of AU Chairperson, President Idriss Debyltno, of the Republic of Chad.

The AU Summit decided on 31 January 2016 that, an inclusive political dialogue for Burundi must be supported under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

The members of the High Level Delegation, each representing their respective Regional economic Community included:

- President Mohammed Ould Abdel aziz of Mauritania
- President Macky Sall of Senegal
- President Ali Bongo Ondimba of Gabon
- Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalgen of Ethiopia

President Zuma expressed his contentment with the participation and contributions of various stakeholders in the Burundian dialogue, saying all parties expressed their strong commitment to resolving political problems through inclusive and peaceful dialogue. The high-level delegation of the Heads of State and Government expressed its concerns about the levels of violence, loss of life and the general state of political instability in the country. The delegation of Heads of State and Government believes strongly that the solution to Burundian political problems can only be attained through inclusive and peaceful engagements.

The Burundian Government has committed to continue with the steps it has begun to open up space for free political activity by the people of Burundi and ensure media freedom.



The AU will deploy 100 human rights observers and 100 military monitors to Burundi to monitor the situation. An inclusive dialogue with all important stakeholders will be convened by President Museveni. This dialogue is part of the consultation work already started by President Museveni in his role as the facilitator for peace talks in Burundi.

President Zuma, on behalf of the Heads of State and Government High-level delegation, urged the international community to support the people of Burundi in their efforts to find lasting peace and development of the country. ([www.SANews.gov.za](http://www.SANews.gov.za))

## AFRICA EXPLORES ITS POWER TO INFLUENCE TECHNOLOGY

Delegates gathered in Dakar, Senegal, on 8-10 March 2016 for the Next Einstein Forum (NEF) Global Gathering (GG2016) – Africa’s global science and technology forum. NEF is a global platform that brings together leaders in industry, policy, science and technology.

In this meeting South Africa was represented by Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor. When addressing the delegates, Minister Pandor said South Africa has the potential to turn talent in Africa into new technologies, and science into life-saving and enhancing innovations. South Africa is investing heavily in initiatives to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), such as the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI). SARChI is a beneficial partnership programme between Government, universities and industry. It began in 2006 with 21 chairs and is now a strategic intervention with 200 chairs in diverse disciplines across the natural sciences, engineering, humanities and social sciences. Last year, 42 new chairs were established, all of which are headed by female researchers. One of the major priorities of this initiative is to address gender and racial imbalances in the make-up of the country’s science and technology workforce. Minister Pandor emphasized on the importance of international fellowship and bursaries to achieve South Africa’s target of producing 5000 doctorates a year.



According to the NEF chairperson, Thierry Zomahoun, increased investment in research and development in STEM fields is crucial for meeting Africa’s development trajectory and that NEF firmly believes that the world’s next Einsteins will come from Africa.

[www.SAnews.gov.za](http://www.SAnews.gov.za)

## SOUTH AFRICA LAUNCHES AFRICA’S FIRST SOLAR-POWERED AIRPORT

The Ministry of Transport has officially opened South Africa/Africa’s first solar-powered airport in George. This project will be spearheaded by the Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA). This ground initiative shows that government is well on track in transitioning South Africa to a low-carbon, inclusive, resource efficient and climate resilient economy and society.

The new solar-powered airport will rely on cost-effective, renewable sources to generate energy, and simultaneously support South Africa’s greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. This is in alignment with South Africa’s National Climate Change Response Policy whose objective is to effectively manage climate change impacts through interventions that build and sustain South Africa’s social, economic and environmental resilience and emergency response capacity. Investment such as at George Airport, must give momentum to other private, and public, sector entities to reconfigure and retrofit their existing infrastructure in support of more sustainable energy consumption patterns. What has been achieved at George Airport is also the result of successful collaboration in the green economy sector between government, entities such as ACSA and the private sector.



The Department of Transport is one of the key departments driving South Africa’s Green Economy Strategy. Green transport initiatives form part of government’s strategy to shift the economy towards cleaner industries and sectors with low environmental impact.

[www.SAnews.gov.za](http://www.SAnews.gov.za)

## SOUTH AFRICA PARTICIPATED IN WORLD COMMUNICATION FORUM (WCF)

The Minister of Communications, Faith Muthambi, represented South Africa in Davos, Switzerland on 7-10 March 2016 to attend the the 2016 World Communication Forum (WCF). Minister Muthambi was one of the panelists speaking about the role of the public media service and challenges of the digital arena in government and communications.

Developmental communications is key in emerging countries as it amplifies the voices of ordinary citizens.

The purpose of the forum was to unite trend makers and influencers from the global communications elite and provide a platform for discussion focused on the future development of communication and its role.



## TRANSNET NATIONAL PORTS AUTHORITY TO BUILD NEW PORT FACILITIES TO GROW SOUTH AFRICA'S OCEAN ECONOMY

Delegates gathered in Dakar, Senegal, on 8-10 March 2016 for the Next Einstein Forum (NEF) Global Gathering (GG2016) – Africa's global science and technology forum. NEF is a global platform that brings together leaders in industry, policy, science and technology.

Transnet National Ports Authority has allocated R7 billion to build new port facilities to grow South Africa's ocean economy. Two hundred jobs have already been created in new port facilities and over the last 12 months, existing ports were refurbished and maintained. Through the public-private partnership to establish Saldanha Bay as an oil and gas hub, an investment of R9, 2billion has been realised, which will be utilised over the next five years.

With 14 licenses issued for oil and gas exploration, drilling of two exploration wells for potential oil and gas finds will take place along the South African coast. The investment in gas infrastructure has commenced and will contribute to the energy security. Work on the offshore supply base has already commenced, and will see Saldanha Bay attracting oil rigs for maintenance and repair. This will create secondary job opportunities for surrounding communities.

An amount of R353 million over the next three years has already been unlocked in the ports of Durban and Cape Town for boat-building infrastructure through incentives provided by Government. Further investments in boat-building – catamaran production, workboat ferries for the navy, two offshore mining vessels and tugboats for the ports authority – and a fuel storage facility amount to approximately R3,6 billion. For the 2016/17 financial year, R80 million has been allocated for the rehabilitation and maintenance of proclaimed harbours in Gansbaai, Saldanha Bay, Struisbaai, Gordons Bay and Lamberts Bay, as well the establishment of three new harbours in Boegoebaai in the Northern Cape, Port St Johns in Eastern Cape and Hibberdene in KwaZulu-Natal. This will provide opportunities for local and rural economic development.



The aquaculture sector has unlocked investments of more than R400 million across 10 aquaculture farms, which are already in production. The expansion of aquaculture projects to inland and other coastal areas in support of small, medium and micro enterprises would create 3 200 jobs and contribute R500 million to the gross domestic product over the next year. The first two bulk carrier vessels have been registered in Port Elizabeth, and a third tanker in Cape Town, providing opportunities for South African cadets (trainees) boarding these vessels.

## SOUTH AFRICA-LED RESCUE MISSION SAVES YEMENI BABY

A proudly South African-led rescue mission crossed the airspace of 10 countries into war-torn Yemen to save the life of a month-old baby.

Yazan Yousif Qade was in dire need of heart surgery, but the current civil war in the country meant the mission would be high risk. Yazan suffers from a life-threatening congenital coarctation of the aorta, which is the narrowing of the large blood vessel branching from the heart. Medair had been approached by Alliance International Medical Services (Aims) to tackle the evacuation and Aims South Africa decided that Netcare Sunninghill Hospital was the appropriate facility to provide the highly-specialised cardiac care, because the mission required "meticulous planning and logistical support at every level".

The Medair Chief Executive, Mr Johnstone said there were fully cognisant of the political sensitivities that needed to be negotiated for us to conduct a mercy flight in that part of the world. The South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation provided considerable assistance in this regard. The mission, which had to be undertaken in two legs, saw Medair pilots, Brendan Boraine, Curtis Griessel, Pieter van der Merwe and Wikus Strydom in action. Netcare 911's flight doctor, Dr Kevin Hjul, and emergency care practitioner, Craig Pyott, provided medical care for the baby throughout the flight.

The return trip went smoothly from a medical perspective, and the air ambulance landed at Lanseria International Airport just after 5 am on Friday, February 12. The baby was transported directly to Netcare Sunninghill Hospital for the heart surgery he so urgently needed. The infant underwent an emergency procedure the same afternoon that he landed. The procedure – performed by cardio-thoracic surgeons, Dr Hendrik Mamore and Dr Izak de Villiers Jonker, and paediatric cardiologist, Dr Raymond Dansky – was a success. The teamwork between Aims, Medair, the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation, Yemen embassy, Netcare Sunninghill Hospital and Netcare 911 was nothing short of inspirational. ([www.news24.com](http://www.news24.com))



## **SOUTH AFRICA CONTINUES TO SUPPORT STABILITY EFFORTS IN AFRICA**

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and South African Police Service (SAPS) continue to participate diligently in conflict prevention and peacekeeping on the continent.

The Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services, Siyabonga Cwele, said there had been a drastic reduction of piracy in the Mozambique Channel following SANDF operations in the area since 2011. SANDF successfully deployed two ships, SAS Spioenkop and SAS Galeshewe, on Operation Copper in the Mozambique Channel, alternating at times during the reporting period. The Force Intervention Brigade, which SANDF is part of, had a very successful operation that saw the biggest armed group in the eastern DRC, M23, surrendering. The SANDF has also assisted with the development and completion of the Military Strategy of the Armed Forces of the DRC.



The South African Government will continue to contribute to peacekeeping on the continent through various peacekeeping missions. South Africa's involvement in peacekeeping missions is premised on our appreciation that Africa's economic development depends on the substance of peace and stability. South Africa would play a critical role in the restoration of peace and stability in the DRC, Burundi, Central African Republic, Libya, South Sudan and other conflict-torn countries.

The country will work in partnership with regional and international partners and as a member of the AU Peace and Security Council. ([www.SAnews.gov.za](http://www.SAnews.gov.za))

---

## **MEETINGS HELD AS PART OF AMBASSADOR NKOSI'S DEPARTURE PROGRAMME**

As part of his end of tour duty programme, Ambassador Nkosi paid courtesy visits to Hon Minister Reynders (Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Belgium) and to Hon Minister-President Bourgeois (Minister-President of Flanders) on 23 and 24 March 2016 respectively. Ambassador Nkosi discussed the excellent relations that exist between the Kingdom of Belgium and South Africa .



# SOUTH AFRICA RECOGNISED



## **SOUTH AFRICA WINS GLOBAL DIPLOMATIC SERVICE AWARD**

The World Affairs Council in Washington, DC has named South Africa as the 2016 recipient of the Distinguished Diplomatic Service Award. The award was received on 29 March 2016 by His Excellency Mzinwa Mahlangu, Ambassador of South Africa to the United States, on behalf of the South African Government.

## **SECRETARY-GENERAL APPOINTS AMB KINGSLEY MAMABOLO OF SOUTH AFRICA AS DEPUTY JOINT SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR DARFUR HYBRID OPERATION**



## **SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL PARKS HEAD CHOSEN TO REPRESENT AFRICA IN UN CONSERVATION BODY**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SOUTH AFRICA TO HOST THREE IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

South Africa will this year host three important international conferences, which will contribute immensely to global governance and a better life, while also being an excellent marketing and tourism opportunity for the country.



The South African Government will continue to contribute to peacekeeping on the continent through various peacekeeping missions. South Africa's involvement in peacekeeping missions is premised on our appreciation that Africa's economic development depends on the substance of peace and stability. South Africa would play a critical role in the restoration of peace and stability in the DRC, Burundi, Central African Republic, Libya, South Sudan and other conflict-torn countries.

### 1. International AIDS Conference

South Africa will host the International AIDS Conference in Durban from 18 to 22 July 2016. Over 13 000 international delegates are expected to attend, in addition to 5 000 local delegates.

Besides the tourism opportunities presented by South Africa hosting of this conference, the country will use this opportunity to mark the progress it has made in fighting the AIDS epidemic.

Government will in the coming weeks make further announcements about this conference, especially plans to have civil society take centre stage in the planning and execution of the conference.

Government thanks the International AIDS Society for choosing South Africa to host this conference.

### 2. Geology Congress

South Africa will also host the 35th International Geological Congress from 27 August to 4 September 2016.

Considered the "World Cup for geologists", the congress aims to promote geoscience and socio-economic development on the African continent, with the impact being increased research in geosciences and opportunities for new mineral and petroleum discoveries. It will also expose young African scientists to world-class researchers, thus contributing to the transformation of the research fraternity.

### 3. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

South Africa will be hosting the 17th Conference of Parties (CoP17) to CITES from 24 September to 5 October 2016 in Johannesburg at the Sandton Convention Centre. One hundred and eighty one parties are signatories to the convention and more than 2 000 participants are expected to attend the CoP.

CITES is a powerful tool for biodiversity conservation. It regulates the international trade in wild fauna and flora to ensure that the international trade is sustainable and not detrimental to the survival of species in the wild.

It will be the first time since 2000 that a CoP of this convention is held on the African continent.

