

EXCLUSIVE

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The South African Newsletter of the South African Embassy in Tehran

APRIL & MAY 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Bilateral Ministerial Meeting** 2
- Meeting with Minister of Economy** 2
- Meeting with Oil Minister** 2
- Events in Photos** 3
- Parliamentarians' Meet** 4
- 12th Meeting of Joint Commission** 5
- Technical Meetings in Photos** 6
- Iran-South Africa Business Forum** 8
- Garden Route** 11
- Limpopo & Kruger National Park** 12
- Cargo Restriction on Transport of Trophies** 13
- Robben Island to Turn to Solar Power**

Meeting with the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane paid a courtesy call on the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Hassan Rouhani, on May 11, 2015 during her recent visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran.



The President and the Minister discussed the expansion of bilateral economic as well as political relations among other issues.

Minister Nkoana-Mashabane stated that "Today I am carrying the message of good will, solidarity,

partnership and extensive cooperation between South Africa and the Islamic Republic of Iran."

President Rouhani reiterated that Iran, as the chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, favors closer cooperation between the African Union and NAM

member states. Iran is an observing member of the African Union (AU) and has shown an active presence in previous AU summit meetings.

Meeting with the Speaker of the Iranian Majlis

The South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation had a meeting with the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) Speaker, Ali Larijnai, on May 11, 2015 during her visit to Tehran.

During the meeting the Speaker of the Consultative Assembly and the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation underlined the need for the solution of the crisis in Yemen through diplomatic means. The top Iranian parliamentarian said that there is no alternative but international

cooperation to counter regional and global challenges.

Minister Nkoana-Mashabane, rejected the use of force to settle differences in Yemen and emphasized diplomacy as the only solution (FNA).



From Ambassador's Pen

The 12th meeting of the Joint Commission between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of South Africa concluded on May 12, 2015 in Tehran amidst much euphoria, enthusiasm and expectation. However,

this event was driven by a sense of serene reality. It was co-chaired by the Foreign Ministers Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif and our Executive Maite Nkoana-Mashabane of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation. Cont. on P. 4



Iran - South Africa Foreign Ministers Meet

A Bilateral Meeting was held between Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and her Iranian counterpart, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, after the opening ceremony of the 12th meeting of the South Africa - Iran Joint Commission at the Mirror Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran on May 10, 2015.

During the consultations, the Ministers discussed a wide range of bilateral and international issues including impediments to commerce, the nuclear talks, energy cooperation, high-level visits, Iran's chairing of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and United Nation's Security Council reforms.



The Ministers re-iterated their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations, agreeing a wide range of concrete projects and programmes to be implemented by defined time lines.

Minister Nkoana-Mashabane led a delegation which included the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr. Mzwandile Masina, as well as senior government officials from the Departments of Energy, Treasury, Water and Sanitation, Trade and Industry as well as Science and Technology.

Photo: mfa.gov.ir

Meeting with Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs

Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Ali Tayebnia met with the South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane in Tehran on Monday 11 May 2015.

Minister of Economy and Finance Ali Tayebnia called for expansion of economic relations and cooperation with South Africa. He further stressed that and it is expected that the current visit of the South African Minister to Tehran would help broaden and bolster relations not only at political level but more importantly business, investment and trade



sector.

Underlining the Iranian Government's emphasis on expanding ties with South African, Tayebnia further emphasized that "there are huge economic potentials and capacities in this African nation."

South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, for her part, voiced South Africa's willingness for expansion of cooperation in technological know-how, agriculture and water treatment with the Islamic Republic of Iran. She also expressed satisfaction over her meeting with the Iranian Minister, urging that decisions taken before be implemented.

South African Energy Minister Visits Iran

The South African Minister of Energy Ms Tina Joemat visited the Islamic Republic of Iran on the 28 and 29 of April 2015.

The Minister met with her Iranian counterpart, Mr. Bijan Namdar Zangeneh, Minister of Oil of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this visit the importance of establishing an MoU was discussed. It was agreed that an MoU on energy to be formed and be signed during the 12th Joint Bilateral Commission between Iran and South Africa.

Gas utilization next to power usage and also the need to have a delegated structure that focuses on energy, were other items that were highlighted in the meeting.

It was also discussed that in regards to infrastructure, Iran has the capacity and South Africa intends to focus on gas since the country does not have enough gas.





www.president.ir

Ambassador Whitehead accompanies Minister Nkoana-Mashabane to the courtesy call on the Iranian President Dr. Hassan Rouhani



Photo : Mohsen Norouzifard

Minister Nkoana-Mashabane meets with the Speaker of the Majlis of the Islamic Republic of Iran



Minister Nkoana-Mashabane and her Iranian counterpart Minister Zarif hold a private meeting prior to the opening ceremony of the 10th Joint Commission.

Photo: mfa.gov.ir



Bilateral Meeting between the Iranian and South African Ministers in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Photo: dfa.gov.za



Photo : Iqbal Khatami

Mr. L Mpumlwana, member of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa meets with the Chairman of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian Majlis, Mr. Alaeddin Boroujerdi.

South African Parliamentarians meet with the Chairman of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian Majlis, Mr. Alaeddin Boroujerdi.

Photo: ICANA



South African MPs Visit Iran for the 12th JC

Three members of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa along with an official visited the Islamic Republic of Iran to observe the 12th meeting of the Joint Bilateral Commission.

During their visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the South African MPs held a meeting with the Chairman of the National Security and Foreign Policy Com-



mittee of the Majlis, Mr. Alaeddin Boroujerdi as well as met with the Speaker of the Majlis, Dr. Ali Larijani.

In the above-mentioned meetings the both sides discussed the friendship between the Republic of South Africa and the Islamic Republic of Iran and also deepening parliamentary relations.

Photo: ICANA

From Ambassador's Pen

Cont. from P. 1

The deliberations were incisive, logical, yet, interspersed with an intransigent focus on what the prospect for future relations between these two developing countries will bring to bear.

Where I to offer an opinion as to the outcomes of this bilateral meeting, I would say that it was informed by the reality that exists between our two countries based on the solid foundations laid by our founding fathers and our peoples.

The umbilical cords that gives expression to these relationships is premised on the historical experience of the martyrs and freedom fighters of both countries who undertook selfless endeavours, paid the supreme price to see the end of subjugation, the no want of our peoples, glistened by the prospects of a better future in a better world for our children.

How then should our relationship be defined?

Persia is an ancient civilization which has influenced various continents through the entrepreneurship and expertise and its people.

Africa, the cradle of mankind, informs us of the origins of species-man that flows through the crevasses of the earth and humankind.

Between our two peoples is a layer, beaming with the opportunity to accelerate humanity's quest for development and the end of poverty.

Though our continents may be apart, peoples globally cling on the cliffs of oneness.

We seek to strengthen our relations with Iran, politically, economically as partners equitably on the basis of what the two countries perceive as beneficial.

South Africa will in the next weeks follow the process of negotiations taking place between Iran and P5+1. We anxiously await the outcomes, we remain fastidiously behind Iran's right to peaceful nuclear technology and remain wary of those who, both in the region and internationally, constantly engage in

bilious rhetoric and continuously binge on beating the drums of war. There should be no precipice in these negotiations. There is no room for a chokehold because that will engender reactions whose consequences could affect future international relations and cause instability that will descend into an abyss of anarchy.

The Middle East needs the presence of an Iran that is integrated to world political, economic and social order, primarily due to the potentials as a solution out of the current impact of terrorism and violence.

The current impasse as regards the negotiations needs to be overcome so that a new chapter of peoples to peoples relationship can emerge. There is a path that we need to walk if we are to contribute to easing of tensions in the Middle East.

I conclude with this excerpt from Mohammad Reza Shafi'ee Kadkani's poem entitled "Passage":

The journey continues and so does the spring with all its vastness
Carrying me who have been left behind, caged in the city's horizon,

Towards boundless spheres,

And, I thankful of all this purity and freedom, much more free than God,

Bestow all my existence

- Which is a moment of strange song of a paradise bird -

To your eternal vastness.

Time continues and the journey ends.



The 12th Meeting of South Africa-Iran Joint Commission



Technical Teams Meet Photo by SA Embassy

Technical Teams' Negotiations, 09 May 2015

The negotiations of the technical teams of the 12th meeting of the Joint Commission started on Saturday, May 9, 2015 at the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran. After a plenary meeting chaired by Mr. Molla Abdollahi, the Director General for African

Countries of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran seven working groups were established including Political, Economic and Trade, Energy, Finance and Banking, Agriculture and Water and Sanitation. The technical teams' negotiations continued until Monday afternoon.



Inaugural Ceremony of the 12 Meeting of the JC with the Presence of Foreign Ministers Photo by mfa.gov.ir

Inaugural Ceremony, 10 May 2015

The 12th meeting of the Joint Bilateral Commission was officially opened with the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa on May 10, 2015

at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ministers call for the expansion of the political and economic relations between the two countries and urged the implementation of defined projects. The opening meeting was followed by a lunch ceremony hosted by the Iranian Foreign Minister. The technical teams continued with their discussions after the opening ceremony.

Closing Ceremony of the 12th Meeting of the Joint Commission

The closing ceremony of the 12th meeting of the Joint Commission between Iran and South Africa was held on Monday, May 11, 2015 at the Iranian Foreign Ministry. During the closing ceremony, the two Ministers signed a substantial Joint Communique which ran to more than 20 pages.



points of mutual interest in the fields of politics, economy, trade, energy, oil, agriculture, science, technology and healthcare during the 12th meeting of the Joint Commission.

Minister Zarif stated that the two sides have discussed various

Full text of the closing statement by Minister Nkoana-Mashabane:

Cont. on P 6

Closing Remarks by H.E. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Republic of South Africa, on the occasion of the 12th Meeting of the Iran-South Africa Joint Commission, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 11 May 2015

PAGE 6

Cont. from P. 5

Thank you programme director,

Your Excellency, Dr Zarif,

Distinguished members of the Iranian and South African delegations,

Ladies and gentlemen of the media,

The South African delegation and I are honoured to have been invited by His Excellency, the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr Mohammad Javad Zarif, to visit Tehran for the Twelfth Meeting of the Joint Commission between our two countries. It is always a pleasure for me to be in Tehran.

Iran occupies a special place in our hearts for the role it played in our liberation struggle. The Islamic Republic stood by us during our darkest days, cutting ties with the apartheid regime. Your revolution was our revolution. You showed us that emancipation was possible, whatever the odds.

Democratic South Africa and Iran have had bilateral relations for 21 years; and over that period we have not allowed outside pressures to interfere with our close friendship. The pace of high level visits has increased over the last few years. Today, I am proud to lead the biggest and strongest South African delegation to ever come to Iran. The delegation comprises around 45 officials from six government departments, a group of Parliamentarians and about 60 businesspeople.

The Joint Commission with Iran that we are here for, is our biggest in the Middle East region, and one of South Africa's oldest with any country in the world, confirmation not only of the warmth of our friendship, but also of the strategic nature of our relations. Yesterday I met with Minister Zarif, and what became absolutely clear is that there is a shared determination and political will on both sides to reinforce relations in all spheres.

We have decided that the time has come to take whatever action is necessary to propel the Iran-South Africa relationship to greater heights. For too long we have spoken of untapped potential. At this Joint Commission, we have made a commitment to ensure implementation of all agreements. You will see from our substantial joint communiqué that the seven working groups have identified a wide but focused range of key areas of future cooperation, and that we have set out deliverable projects and programmes that are time-bound and outcomes-based. Among these are initiatives in education, health, investment, mining, transport, agriculture, science and technology, and, of course, energy.

As developing countries with complimentary profiles and a shared commitment to eradicating poverty, South Africa and the Islamic Republic are natural economic partners. But unfortunately the rapid growth in our trade relations has been interrupted by punishing sanctions that have a heavy-handed extra-territorial force. South Africa has always spoken out against the language of threats and coercion, including the unilateral sanctions that have been unfairly and unjustly imposed to single out the Islamic Republic of Iran. These sanctions are not only sanctions on Iran but sanctions on all of us. I would like to reiterate what I said at the business forum yesterday. Unlike others, South Africa is not waiting for sanc-

tions to be lifted to do business with Iran. South Africa has been in Iran even in the toughest times. Trade has already grown by more than 50% over the past year. I wish to congratulate our two business communities for their work to set up the South Africa-Iran Business Council, our new bridge to link our two business communities more deeply to each other.

We were very encouraged by the political agreement recently reached in the nuclear talks. It has always been our position that Iran has an inalienable right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in line with the provisions of the NPT. As a country that has the rare distinction of having acquired nuclear weapons and then voluntarily dismantling them, South Africa can recognise in Iran a state that shares our conviction that nuclear weapons are immoral, futile, and counterproductive, and that has taken the strategic decision not to pursue the nuclear bomb, despite living nearby to nuclear-armed states. Like Iran, South Africa firmly believes that the Middle East should be made a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, as we have done in Africa with the Pelindaba Treaty. The South African government gives its full encouragement and support to the negotiators as they work to conclude a comprehensive agreement. We hope that the final outcome will be fair and just to the people of Iran, and that the sanctions will be lifted without delay.

South Africa joins the Secretary-General of the UN and the government of Iran in expressing our grave concern about the continued fighting and bombardment in Yemen and its impact on innocent civilians. We urge all parties engaged in military operations to protect civilians and ensure immediate humanitarian access and the delivery of aid to alleviate the catastrophic humanitarian situation. Like Iran, we are calling for an immediate ceasefire and a political solution by facilitating and promoting an inclusive Yemeni-led dialogue towards the establishment of a broad-based unity government.

South Africa is appreciative of the constructive role that Iran continues to play in international organizations and in particular its role as current Chair of the Non Alignment Movement (NAM), where it has made able use of its leadership to actively champion the cause of developing countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is a pivotal country in the Middle East Region whose influence needs to be recognised as being essential to the resolution of the challenges in the region, from extremism to inclusive economic development to maintaining peace and stability. We believe that resolving the Iranian nuclear issue will lead to a major reduction of tension in the region and will make a key contribution to global efforts to reverse the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East.

Iran is amongst the oldest civilizations of the world and has distinguished itself through its enormous intellectual, economic and cultural contributions. With the successful resolution of the nuclear dispute, we look forward to Iran being allowed to take its rightful place among the leading nations on the global stage.

Dr Zarif and I look forward to our further engagement and the convening of the Thirteenth session of the Joint Commission in South Africa.

Thank you

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

Technical Negotiations



The Technical Teams started their negotiations on Saturday, May 09, 2015 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Seven teams were set up to conduct negotiations which concluded prior to the closing ceremony of the 12th meeting of the Joint Commission on Monday, May 11, 2015.

Energy Team 

Photo: SA Embassy



Trade Team 

Photo: SA Embassy



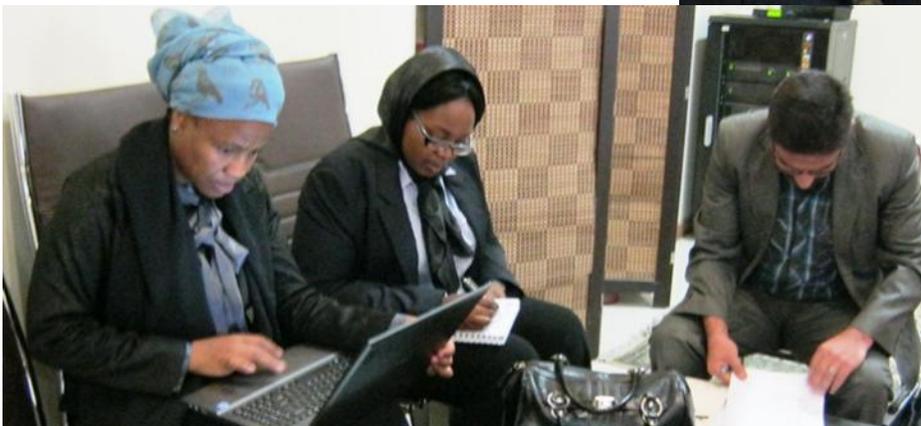
Finance and Economics Team 

Water Affairs Team 
Photo: SA Embassy



Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Team

Photo: SA Embassy



Business Forum

A business forum was held at Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) on 10 May 2015 with the cooperation of South African Embassy in Tehran. About 80 Iranian companies and members of South African business delegation



attended the forum. The session was chaired by the President of ICCIMA and participations of H.E Ms. Mashabane, the Minister of International Relations and Co-operation, H.E Masina, Deputy-Minister of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Ambassador Whitehead, the South African Ambassador to Tehran, and Ambassador

Faraji, the Iranian Ambassador to South Africa.

The President of the ICCIMA opened the session by stating that South Africa is the target market for Iran in the African Continent, and it is the hub for entering African markets such as SADC with 250 million population.

He mentioned that 90 documents of mutual cooperation between the two countries were signed in the 11th Joint Commission. The areas of mutual cooperation between the two countries consist of mining, agriculture, construction, steel, shipping, transportation, energy, oil, gas & petrochemicals, petroleum by-products, medical equipment, plastics and investment sectors. Agriculture could be viewed as an important sector for mutual cooperation due to difference in seasons of the two countries, he believed.

There are also opportunities for tri-lateral cooperation between the two countries. It could be done such as mutual economic projects to be implemented in the CIS countries, Afghanistan, Iraq as well as in the African countries, he mentioned.

The South African Minister of International Relations stated that South Africa and Iran have had bilateral relations for past 21 years. The joint commission with Iran is the biggest in the Middle East region, and Iran is strategic partner of South Africa in the region. There is also common political will from both countries that paves the way for performing tangible mutual business cooperation.

The two countries' bilateral trade relations was unfortunately hurt by injustice sanctions against Iran, and South African is not waiting for sanctions to be lifted to do business with Iran. The private sectors of both countries must cease the opportunity and perform tangible business projects, she said.

The Deputy Minister of DTI then called the Business forum as an important tool to strengthen trade &

investment as well as exchange of delegations and exchange of trade information. He also said that he is looking forward to a strong Iranian business delegation to visit South Africa to improve trade and investment relations between the two countries.

For South African Government perspective Iran is a gateway to the CIS countries, and South Africa for Iran is the gateway to the SADC, COMESA and BRICS markets. Iran remains strategic trading partner of South Africa in the Middle East, he said.

South Africa's export to Iran declined from \$900 million to \$200 million due to the banking sanction against Iran. In 2014, South Africa's exports to Iran included mineral products, chemicals, electrical equipment and industrial machineries and parts.

In 2014, top South Africa's import from Iran included; machineries, textile, chemicals and medical equipment, he mentioned.

South Africa – Iran Business Council

The SA-Iran Business Council meeting was convened in the sideline of the business forum with participation of South African chairperson and Iranian chairperson as well as number of South African private sector companies.

Mr. Babapur, Chairman of Iran – South Africa Business Council hoped that the meeting serves as the launch of the business council and the ground is ready for establishing mutual business cooperation between the two countries.

The structure of the business council has been formed in Iran and the board members are elected. The council has its constitution and can be forwarded to South Africa.

The business council in Iran is a non-governmental entity and has members of both public and private sectors. The potential areas for mutual cooperation between the two countries are: oil, gas & petrochemicals, agriculture, construction & infrastructure, engineering services and tourism, he stated.

An MOU on trade and investment promotion needs to be signed between the two parties. Both countries have vast business opportunities and must form a working committee to deal with business issues between the two business councils in South African & Iran.

There is no limitation and restriction for South African and Iranian companies to join the business councils, and the business council must use enabling mechanism for both countries' entrepreneurs to do business together. Iran has good foreign investment laws, good judiciary system, solid infrastructures that South African companies must use and invest in Iran. There are also incentives from Iranian Government for manufacturing and job creation.

Business Forum



Ms. Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister of International Relations of South Africa, and Mr. Gholamhoussein Shafei, President of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture



Travelling with Children Regulation: Effective from 1 June 2015



TRAVELLING ABROAD WITH CHILDREN

Familiarise yourself with SA's new requirements for travelling with children. SA now has new immigration laws to protect citizens and to improve lives:

- Parliament amended the Immigration Act, 2002 in 2007 and 2011.
- This gave us the Immigration Amendment Acts of 2007 and 2011.
- The amended acts came into force with the Immigration Regulations, 2014.
- They came into operation on 26 May 2014.
- These new laws changed how we handle movement in and out of SA

NEW IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS

1. Where parents are travelling with a child.

Requirements:

- Such parents must produce an unabridged birth certificate of the child reflecting the particulars of the parents of the child.
- Adopted children to provide proof of adoption by means of an adoption certificate



(iv) Where applicable, a death certificate of the other parent registered as a parent of the child on the birth certificate;

(v) Legally separated parents should also provide a court order when the other parent does not give consent.

Provided that the Director-General may, where the parents of the child are both deceased and the child is travelling with a relative or another person related to him or her or his or her parents, approve such a person to enter into or depart from the Republic with such a child.

Explanatory Note:

The affidavit may not be older than 3 months, dating from the date of travel.

3. Where a person is travelling with a child who is not his or her biological child, he or she must produce.

Requirements:

- A copy of the unabridged birth certificate of the child;
- An affidavit from the parents or legal guardian of the child confirming that he or she has permission to travel with the child;
- Copies of the identity documents or passports of the parents or legal guardian of the child; and
- The contact details of the parents or legal guardian of the child



Explanatory Note:

These regulations apply to all travellers, foreign as well as South African; on departure as well as arrival.

In the case of foreign countries that do not issue unabridged birth certificates, a letter to this effect issued by the competent authority of the foreign country should be produced.

All documents must be original or copies certified as a true copy of the original by a commissioner of oaths or the equivalent commissioning authority, should commissioners of oath not be a practice in the country concerned;

2. Where one parent is travelling with a child.

Requirements:

- Such parent must produce an unabridged birth certificate of the child reflecting the particulars of the parents of the child
- Consent in the form of an affidavit from the other parent registered as a parent on the birth certificate of the child authorising him or her to enter into or depart from the Republic with the child he or she is travelling with
- A court order granting full parental responsibilities and rights or legal guardianship in respect of the child, if he or she is the parent or legal guardian of the child; or

Provided that the Director-General may, where the parents of the child are both deceased and the child is travelling with a relative or another person related to him or her or his or her parents, approve such a person to enter into or depart from the Republic with such a child.

4. Any unaccompanied minor shall produce to the immigration officer

Requirements:

- Proof of consent from one of or both his or her parents or legal guardian, as the case may be, in the form of a letter or affidavit for the child to travel into or depart from the Republic: Provided that in the case where one parent provides proof of consent, that parent must also provide a copy of a court order issued to him or her in terms of which he or she has been granted full parental responsibilities and rights in respect of the child;
- A letter from the person who is to receive the child in the Republic, containing his or her residential address and contact details in the Republic where the child will be residing;
- A copy of the identity document or valid passport and visa or permanent residence permit of the person who is to receive the child in the Republic; and
- The contact details of the parents or legal guardian of the child.



5. Any child who is in alternative care as defined in the Children's Act, 2005 (Act No. 38 of 2005)

Requirements:

shall, before departing from the Republic, produce a certified copy of an authorisation letter from the Provincial Head of the Department of Social Development where the child resides as contemplated in section 169 of the Children's Act.

Explanatory Note:

This Regulation has entered into force on 26 May 2014.

Together we can move South Africa forward.

APPLY TODAY! Travelling or not travelling! It is the right thing to do! Visit at your leisure the Home Affairs website – www.dha.gov.za – for documents and more information on the new immigration acts and regulations.

For civic services, including application for unabridged birth certificates and other documents, speak to our Civics Branch. Contact details are on our Home Page, at www.dha.gov.za.

We Care!

Taking South Africa's Garden Route

Continued...

Welcome to Wilderness

Leaving George behind, Wilderness is undoubtedly where you will next want to stop for a day or two. With an impressive collection of long, secluded beaches, lakes and rivers, the small intimate town is the perfect place to enjoy a secluded getaway.



Ostrich farm near Oudtshoorn in the Western Cape
(Photo: Rodger Bosch, MediaClubSouth Africa.com)

The magic of Knysna

From the moment you approach Knysna, driving alongside the massive lagoon, it's all too obvious why this town is the unofficial capital of the Garden Route. Try not to swerve off the road when you first

notice the impressive Knysna Heads – the two large sandstone cliffs that stand guard on either side of the estuary mouth.

In Knysna, visitors can just as easily explore the lagoon, forests and rivers as the bustling town centre. As the Oyster capital of South Africa, Knysna is a place where people love to eat. The culmination of the town's oyster obsession is the annual Knysna Oyster festival, which takes place from late June to early July. Knysna Tourism: visitknysna.co.za



Tsitsikamma National Park on South Africa's Garden Route (Photo: South African National Parks)

Plettenberg Bay

Packed with marine life, lined with long beaches and buzzing with daytime activities and nightlife, it's easy to see why many South Africans spend their summer in Plettenberg Bay. There are also a variety of special places located just outside Plettenberg that must be visited. These include the Elephant Sanctuary, Monkeyland and Birds of Eden, the largest free-flight bird aviary in the world.

Plettenberg Bay Tourism: www.plettenbergbay.co.za
Elephant Sanctuary:

www.elephantsanctuary.co.za
Monkeyland: www.monkeyland.co.za
Birds of Eden: www.birdsofeden.co.za

Tsitsikamma

Heading east once again, it's time to tame your fears in Tsitsikamma. Some 80km of rocky coastline comprise the Tsitsikamma section of the Garden Route National Park, a place of deep, heavily scarred gorges, cliffs, tidal pools and thick evergreen forests. There are walking trails that range from comfortable day-long hikes too much longer treks.

For a less strenuous experience, take a canopy tour. Standing almost 100 feet in the air, surrounded by 100-year-old hardwood trees, visitors slide along cables, zipping from platform to platform in the treetops.

Not to be outdone by the heights of Tsitsikamma, the nearby Bloukrans Bridge offers a heady rush of a different kind. At 708 feet, Bloukrans is the highest commercial bungee jump in the world.

Bloukrans Bungee, operated by Face Adrenalin: www.faceadrenalin.com

Bloukrans Bungee, operated by Face Adrenalin: www.faceadrenalin.com

Port Elizabeth

Arriving in Port Elizabeth, you may have reached the end of your Garden Route journey east, but the coastal fun is far from over. PE is the gateway to the game reserves of the Eastern Cape, a malaria-free safari region that offers some incredible wildlife experiences.

The most famous of the Eastern Cape reserves are Shamwari, KwanDwe Private Reserve and the Addo Elephant Park, but there are many other remarkable reserves in this region, all of which are a comfortable drive from South Africa's "Friendly City".

Read more: [The Big Seven and more at Addo](#)
Nelson Mandela Bay Tourism: www.nmbt.co.za

Shamwari: www.shamwari.com
SANParks – Addo Elephant National Park: www.sanparks.org/parks/addo

This is an edited version of an article first published by Fifa.com

Limpopo & Kruger National Park

Limpopo is a tourist attraction destination. It is renowned as the Province of peace. It is endowed with bountiful natural resources, including 54 provincial reserves and many private game reserves. A few hours from Gauteng, the Province boasts the Waterburg mountain range, supporting the thriving farming and game ranching, nature reserves and resorts.

The capital of the Province is Polokwane as we head further north into the Province. It has an excellent growing infrastructure, a modern international airport and offers a wealth of diverse cultural experiences.

East of the city the R71 takes you to the subtropical part of the Valley of the Olifants, the verdant Magoebaskloof Valley.

Further eastwards takes you into the heart of the 'big five' parks of the country and some of the prime game farms in Africa, including the Kruger National Park - majestic in extent and abundant in wild life.

The hot climate makes Limpopo a pleasant year-round holiday destination. During summer - that is in the months October to March - it is hot with brief afternoon showers, providing a cooling effect for evenings. In winter - from May to September - the mornings are crisp, the days are dry and sunny and the evenings cold and clear.

Flora and Fauna

The Baobab tree, which is found only in Limpopo in the

country, is an awe inspiration to the visitor. They are hundreds of years old and mostly found on the Northern part of the province. They are well preserved in the Baboab Tree Reserve in the Mussina Nature Reserve.

The magnificent cycad forest near Tzaneen, the Modjadji Cycad (*Encephalartos transversus*) of the Rain Queen is one of the largest cycads in the world and it is a protected species.

All creatures large and small, from the massive hippopotamus to the diminutive mongoose are found in their unspoilt natural habitat. The spectrum of game species include large populations of giraffe, kudu, gemsbok, nyala, water buck, klip springer, impala, a blue wild beast and zebra, white lions that are truly white lions not albinos.

For instance, in Timbavati Private nature reserve, elephants, buffalo, rhinoceros, leopards, cheetahs, red duiker, samango, monkeys, bushbuck, bushpigs and a countless others. There also more than 300 species of birds including the endangered species like vultures at Moletjie Nature Reserve 20 kilometres north west of Polokwane.

The population of Limpopo consists of the following several ethnic groups distinguished by culture, language and race:

- The Northern Sotho (Sepedi) : Approximately 57%.
- The Tsonga (Shangaan) : Approximately 23%
- The Venda : Approximately 12%.
- The Afrikaners : Approximately 2.6%



- The English : Approximately half a per cent

Kruger National Park

As far as holiday and safari destinations go, the Kruger National Park is well established as one of the foremost wildlife sanctuaries in the world. Measuring up at an impressive 18,989 square kilometers, the park is the largest in South Africa and is considered a must-see safari destination by many of the guests who book there.

With multiple reserves in the area, extensive and varied ecosystems, a wider selection of mammal species than anywhere else in Africa, a large range of accommodation options, many game viewing opportunities and optimum positioning amidst the attractive bushveld of the Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces, the Greater Kruger Park is a complete safari destination. The Kruger National Park was proclaimed in 1894 by President Paul Kruger.

The Kruger National Park should be on everybody's bucket list.

Unless you've been up at dawn, driving out of camp as the morning sun illuminates thousands of glittering spider webs among the bushes, cruising slowly along the roads hoping for that overnight lion kill, or a leopard draped casually over the branch of a big tree, you've missed one of the world's greatest wildlife experiences .

It's not only about the famed Big Five, but thousands of other animals such as the giraffe – surely the most elegant of all the bush animals. You'll encounter elephants galore – watch out for that tiny baby crossing the road – and herds of buffalo. There are so many different kinds of antelope your head will spin, fat crocodiles sunning themselves on sandbanks, hyenas mooching along, and, if you're very lucky, a pack of wild dogs on the prowl.

Sharing the park with you are over 100 000 impala, 10 000 blue wildebeest, 9 000 kudu, 5 000 warthog (everybody's favourite ugly duckling), 25 000 zebra, 180 cheetah, over 1 000 leopard and 1 500 lions – and that's just the start. You can now begin to understand the natural super-abundance of one of the world's best-loved game parks.

The Kruger National Park enjoys a great year-round sunny climate and offers all kinds of activities, from guided game drives and bush walks with an armed ranger to three-night walking trails in deep wilderness areas. The Kruger National Park is renowned not only for its diversity of wildlife, but also for its conservation record. You can see the famed Big Five, but you'll also be dazzled by hundreds of birds, ancient trees, mighty rivers and much, much more.



Cargo Restrictions on Transportation of Trophies



Airline	Product Embargo	CITES I	CITES II
Air France	Total Ban	Total Ban	Total Ban
KLM	Total Ban	Total Ban	Total Ban
British Airways	All Ivory	OK	OK
Emirates	Lion, Tiger/Leopard, Rhino, Elephant	Total Ban	OK
Qatar Airways	No Restrictions	OK	OK
Lufthansa	No Restrictions	Total Ban	OK
Etihad	No Restrictions	OK	OK
Swiss	Ivory	Total Ban	OK
South African Airways	Lion, Tiger, Rhino, Elephant	Total Ban	OK
<u>Cargolux</u>	Ivory only	OK	OK
El Al Israeli	No Restrictions	OK	OK
Egypt Air	No Restrictions	OK	OK
Turkish Airlines	Ivory	Total Ban	OK
Delta Airlines	No Restrictions	OK	OK
Singapore Airlines	Ivory, Rhino Horn	OK	OK
Qantas Airways	No Restrictions (Caveat – Australian - Regs)	OK	OK

Robben Island to Turn to Solar Power

Robben Island, one of the world's top tourist attractions, will soon generate its power from solar panels.

The island prison, which once held Nelson Mandela and struggle stalwarts Walter Sisulu and Ahmed Kathrada, among others, will be a pilot site for the Department of Tourism. It plans to roll out solar power to botanical gardens, South African National Parks and world heritage sites.

Delivering his department's budget vote today, Tourism

Minister Derek Hanekom said the installation of solar power at the island would take place during the current financial year.

"The exciting part of the retrofitting programme is that it contributes towards our countrywide effort to reduce the electricity demand and to start shifting towards efficient energy use and renewable energy use.

"We will be introducing this component of the incentive programme on a pilot basis this year and it will involve the introduction of renewable energy at mainly our botanical gardens, at South African National Parks and at some of our world heritage sites. It will also include some of our community-based projects, particularly those that don't have immediate access to the grid," he said.

The retrofitting programme is part of the R180-million Tourism Incentive Programme, which is aimed at advancing transformation in the sector, growing enterprises and developing tourism attractions. As part of the retrofitting, the department will assess the needs of these establishments and then install photovoltaic panels.

Local procurement

Hanekom said the panels would be made using technology that was South African intellectual property and the bulk of the components would

be local. "One of the pilot sites will be Robben Island, and this will be done this year.

"Robben Island as we speak depends entirely on diesel generated electricity. We will shift them completely from diesel generated electricity to solar generated electricity," he said.

While R180-million would be spent on the pilot phase of the Tourism Incentive Programme, an additional R368-million had been budgeted for the following years, said the minister.

During the 2015/16 financial year, the programme would support tourism enterprises to access new markets by subsidising some of the costs of attending travel shows, as well as costs associated with being graded by the Tourism Grading Council.

Tourism had contributed 9.4% to the country's gross domestic product over the past year, Hanekom added. The sector's value chain now supported one in every 10 jobs in the country.

International arrivals

"Growth in international tourist arrivals was recorded at 6.6% between 2013 and 2014. The 9.5 million visitors welcomed into South Africa last year contributed to creating a better life for all South Africans.

"The Department of Tourism will leverage the 2015/16 budget of R1.8-billion to create job opportunities and implement programmes that will take the sector forward in an inclusive and sustainable manner."

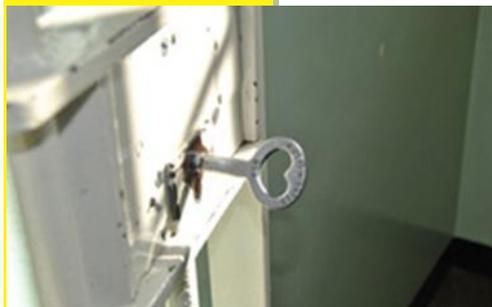
His department had set an ambitious target of attracting 12 million international tourists arrivals by 2017/18 and increasing domestic holidaymakers from 2.8 million in 2014 to 4.1 million by 2020.

"With this level of growth, the department [is] on track to achieve the National Development Plan's target of creating 225 000 jobs within the sector by 2020," he added.

"About 54% of the budget will be allocated to South African Tourism for international and domestic marketing. An amount of R100-million has been ring-fenced for domestic marketing this year."

Source: SAnews.gov

(R1 = USD 11 apx.)



The door to Nelson Mandela's prison cell on Robben Island. (Image: Lorraine Kearney)



The prison block where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned on Robben Island. (Image: Lorraine Kearney)