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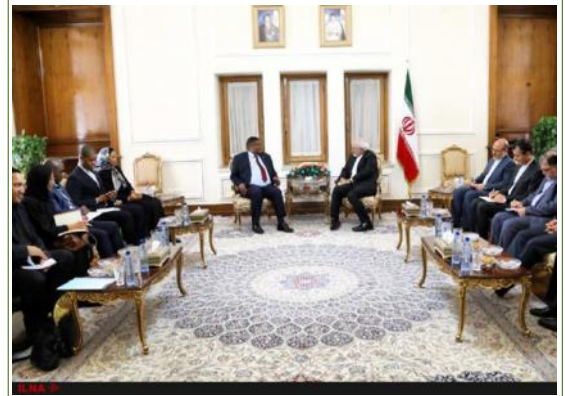
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South African Minister of State Security Attends President Rouhani's Inauguration



A senior Minister represented the President of the Republic of South Africa at President Rouhani's Inauguration Ceremony on August 4, 2017. South African Minister of State Security, H.E. David Mahlobo, visited the Islamic Republic of Iran from August 4-6, 2017,

and attended President Rouhani's Inauguration Ceremony. The Minister of State Security, Mr Mahlobo met with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif on August 6, 2017.



South African National Assembly Speaker visited Iran

National Assembly Speaker Ms Baleka Mbete paid an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran upon an invitation from her counterpart in the Iranian Islamic Consultative Assembly, Dr Ali Larijani on September 1-4, 2017. Ms Mbete paid a courtesy call to the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Hassan Rouhani on September 2, 2017.



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Deputy Ministerial Working Group Was Held in Tehran

Deputy Minister Ms Nomaindiya Mfeketo, visited Tehran to meet her counterpart, Dr Jaber Ansari, on 31 July 2017. The



meeting took place within the framework of the South Africa-Iran Deputy Ministerial Working Group (DMWG), which provides oversight in monitoring and guiding bilateral political and economic relations between the two countries. The South African Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation,



Ms Nomaindiya Mfeketo, met with the Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif on 31 July 2017.

South African National Assembly Speaker and Speaker of the Iranian Islamic Consultative Assembly met in Tehran



A bilateral meeting was held between the South African National Assembly Speaker and the Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran on September 2, 2017.

Dr Larajani pointed out that Iran attached great importance to South Africa and its foreign policy. South Africa expressed appreciation for Iran's interest in South Africa and the cooperation in promoting the developmental agenda through South-South cooperation. Both parties reiterated that SA-Iran Parliamentary Friendship Group would support bilateral programmes. In addition, the two institutions would maintain closer contact through regular exchange at the Inter-Parliamentary Forums.



The Speakers briefed the media after the bilateral meeting in the presence of Iranian officials and South African Embassy Officials, Ambassador Whitehead, Political Counsellor Ms. Jacobs and Second Secretary (Political) Mr. Funani.

South African National Assembly Speaker met with the Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif

On the status of the bilateral relations, Minister Zarif indicated that he looked forward to his visit to South Africa to attend the South Africa - Iran Joint Commission noting that



these high- level visits would elevate relations both politically and economically. Minister Zarif also noted that South Africa and Iran have similar views on multilateral issues, and that in this regard, ongoing political dialogue and support for each other on issues of global governance is important.

South African National Assembly Speaker met with the Chairperson of the Iranian Consultative Assembly’s Women’s Faction

The South African Speaker had a meeting with the Chairperson of the Women’s Faction of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran.

Iran’s parliamentary representative was keen to work with South Africa to share its post-revolutionary experiences in advancing the rights of women and to work closer together to address the issues of gender equality. The Speaker responded that among the principles of the new dispensation,



establishment of institutions and creation of a culture to redress inequality, ensured parity for all disadvantaged groups including women. Both parties agreed that further exchange and engagement would be mutually beneficial to both countries, and expressed their wish that this first encounter would be the beginning of a long relationship from which women in both societies would benefit positively.

the involvement of women in all post-apartheid reconstruction processes such as inclusion in the new Constitution,

Photos by IRI Majlis Photographer

South African National Assembly Speaker met with the Governor of the Central Bank of Iran, Dr Seif

In her last official engagement, the Speaker thanked her Iranian hosts for a fruitful visit which she believed would serve to give impetus to economic relations. The Governor highlighted that since the signing of the JCPOA nuclear deal in 2015, international relations had improved overall resulting in an improvement in economic relations. He expressed his country's appreciation for South Africa's willingness to improve trade relations.

Photo by CBI



Speaker Also Visited the Iranian City of Esfahan



The Speaker also visited Esfahan, the second biggest city after Tehran, and an important centre of history and culture, as a guest of the Governor. This visit was also viewed positively and as a signal to the commitment to strengthening and improving relations, notably in the tourism and cultural sectors.

Photos by: IRNA

From Ambassador's Pen

The swearing in of the second administration of President Rouhani is intertwined with mouth-watering prospects for further consolidation of the strategic relations between the two brotherly capitals of Tehran and Pretoria.

The successful holding of elections in Iran was a global example of a participatory, inclusive and robust increase in democratic practice. We in South Africa would like to once more salute the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran and congratulate President Rouhani for his victorious ascent to the High Office, once more.

There are, however many challenges that the new administration will face, especially within the Middle East regional context.

The visit by the US President Trump to Riyadh, instead of quelling fires in a region already sweltering under the furnaces of conflict, only further extenuated contradictions by supporting Saudi Arabia whilst castigating Iran. Trump's visit was later followed by the GCC crisis which seeks to isolate and sanction Qatar, accusing it of supporting terrorism and engaging in propaganda through the Al Jazeera network.



The situation in Yemen worsens as bombing raids continue coupled with the worst outbreak of cholera since the Second World War. Children and women are the worst affected as the prospects for resolution of this conflict remain elusive and distant.

Continued on page 5

South African National Assembly Speaker visited the Museum of the Iranian Islamic Consultative Assembly



From Ambassador's Pen

The war in Syria and Iraq against Daesh, whilst more intense, indicates that both

governments' military forces have the competitive advantage over the Takfiri terrorists indicative of a victory in the near future.

The recent decision by Kurdistan region in Iraq to hold a referendum to test popular will to secede once more opens up potential for yet another arena for conflict in the war-weary Middle East. Iran, Iraq and Turkey have made clear their intention to stop such a move which could engulf the entire region since Kurds extend across all these countries.

In Africa we are witnessing accelerated acts of terrorism in Somalia and Nigeria, indicative of the reality that terrorism is a worldwide phenomenon steeped in social and economic factors but also fanned by regimes bent on promoting dominance over others.

There are more pressing issues facing mankind. The upcoming climate change conference in Bonn is a classic example of a situation in which humanity has no option but to cooperate. This is a singular world in which we all live, and where without each and every country's cooperation, we shall destroy this home and our own species.

The South Africa-Iran Specialised Technical Committee meeting was Held in Pretoria



The Iranian Specialised Technical Committee which was led by the Director General of Foreign Ministry's African Affairs, Mr. Mehdi Aqa-Jafari, visited South Africa on July 18-19,

2017 in the build-up to the 13th Iran-South Africa Joint Commission which is scheduled to be held in October 2017. The Iranian delegation included representatives from the ministries of petroleum; finance and economic affairs; industry, mine and trade; agriculture Jihad; and science, research and technology; as well as representatives of the Central Bank; Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization; Chamber of Commerce, Bank Pasargad; and Mahan Air.

Ambassador Whitehead Visited Barajin Park in Qazvin

On 18 May 2017, Ambassador Whitehead took a visit to Barajin National Park located in Qazvin Province. The park is made up of 4000 acres of hilly land. Included in the park, one will find the Nature Village/Zoo consisting of 25 acres. On the Southeast of the zoo, will be the Safari Park with an area of approximately 70 acres. The Safari Park project completely belongs to the Municipality of Qazvin. All the infrastructures are ready at present and work has started on design and construction. The purpose of the visit was to

see the facilities of the park and determine in what aspects South Africa can contribute to the development of the park. The potential for cooperation in development of the park was therefore discussed.



The 37th SADC Summit Was Chaired by South Africa

EXCERPTS OF COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE
37th SUMMIT SADC OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT
OR TAMBO BUILDING, DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS AND COOPERATION (DIRCO)
PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA
19th – 20th AUGUST 2017

The 37th Ordinary Summit of the Heads of State and the Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) was held at OR Tambo Building, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) in Pretoria, in the Republic of South Africa on 19th and 20th August 2017.

Summit elected His Excellency, Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa as Chairperson of SADC.

Summit endorsed the 37th SADC theme of “Partnering with the Private sector in developing industry and regional value-chains” as the 2017 Summit Theme.

Summit Urged Member States to operationalize the 2017 Theme through implementation of projects which are in line with focus areas of Agro-processing, Mineral Beneficiation, Energy, Pharmaceuticals, boosting skills to enhance regional integration and create a mechanism for the involvement of the private sector. Summit directed that a regional Natural Gas Committee be constituted to promote the inclusion of gas in the regional energy mix for industrial development.

Summit Commended the Outgoing Chairperson His Majesty King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Swaziland for his exemplary leadership during his tenure, and for convening a successful Investment Forum on Energy and Water Projects.

Summit noted progress made in the operationalisation of the SADC University of Transformation and urged Ministers responsible for Education and Training; and Science, Technology and Innovation to expedite the finalisation of the preparatory work for the operationalisation of the University.

Summit urged Member States to speed the process of operationalizing the SADC Regional Development Fund in order to support the Industrialization Agenda.

Summit noted progress in the implementation of the Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2020-2063 in specifically profiling of value chains in the three priority sectors of agro processing, mining and pharmaceuticals and urged Member States to keep the momentum and develop and actualize the identified value chains.



Summit commended the South African Government for convening a successful SADC Industrialisation Week. Summit noted the outcomes of the industrialization week and urged Member States to operationalise the outcomes by partnering with the private sector in developing industry and regional value chains.

Summit noted the improvement in the overall 2017/18 food security situation in the region and urged Member States to take measures to improve storage facilities in order to minimise post-harvest losses and put in place contingency plans.

Summit Urged Member States to explore risk insurance options in cases of climate change related disasters including facilities that are available at the African Development Bank.

Summit approved the Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants in the SADC Region which will provide for the establishment of an effective system of plant variety protection, promote the development of new varieties of plants for the benefit of the region and protection of breeders' rights.

Summit commended Member States who have reached the 50:50 gender parity in political and decision making positions in the public service and private sector and urged Member States that have not reached the target to strive towards reaching the target at all levels.

Summit also noted that HIV and AIDS remains a major challenge affecting significant numbers of adolescents and young people, predominantly females, and that the high prevalence in HIV and AIDS is exacerbated by drugs abuse.

Summit directed the Secretariat to urgently develop a comprehensive Regional Strategy to deal with drug abuse and cyber-crime.

In Focus: Gauteng Province

Gauteng is the smallest of South Africa's provinces, covering an area of 18 178km² or approximately 1.4% of the total surface area of South Africa. It is bordered by the Free State, North West, Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces. While being the smallest province, it is also the most populous, being home to 13,399,725 people – 24.1% of the national population. Gauteng lies on the highest part of the interior plateau on the rolling plains of South Africa's Highveld.

Gauteng is a cosmopolitan, multicultural mix of people from all walks of life, from all corners of the world. Gauteng is also an entertainment playground offering world-class restaurants, shebeens, shopping malls and music venues.

Its capital is Johannesburg and it also contains the city of Pretoria, as well as the East Rand, West Rand and Vaal areas.



It is also a shopping haven, with malls offering international designer wares alongside locally produced fashions – an ideal destination to pick up some proudly South African haute couture.

Gauteng continues to serve as the economic engine room of the country and the sub-continent, respon-

sible for over 34.8% of the country's GDP. Gauteng is the powerhouse of South Africa and the heart of its commercial business and industrial sectors. The most important sectors contributing to GDP are finance, real estate and business services; manufacturing; and general government services. Gauteng is also the financial services capital of Africa. More than 70 foreign banks have their head offices here, as do at least the same number of South African banks, stock-brokers and insurance giants.

The major gold and diamond mining houses all have their headquarters in Johannesburg, the biggest being Anglo American and De Beers. Gold mining constitutes 80% of Gauteng's mineral production output. Gauteng is divided into three metropolitan municipalities, the City of Ekurhuleni, City of Johannesburg and City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipalities, as well as two district municipalities, which are further subdivided into six local municipalities.

Johannesburg

Johannesburg is an African city of note. The largest city in South Africa, Johannesburg is also the wealthiest and, without doubt, the economic powerhouse of Africa.

Johannesburg is a booming, happening city and the emphasis is on making money - whether in business or on the streets - and has been since its beginnings when the world's richest gold fields were discovered in Johannesburg during the 1880s.

There are over six million trees in Johannesburg - that draws the visitor: buzzing, trendy suburbs like Parktown and Norwood, with their restaurant-lined avenues that cater for the dining and décor set; the high street of Greenside that so easily dons the mantle of hip chic; fashionable Melville, and the sprawling malls of Sandton, all combine to make the city a great place to be.

Though not touted as an outdoor city, there are, nevertheless, a number of parks and nature reserves, like Emmarentia Dam and the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden, that are worth a visit.

The Magaliesberg is just on your doorstep, and you're extremely well placed for adventures a little further afield, like the Kruger National Park and the game parks of the Lowveld.



Pretoria

Known as the Jacaranda City for all the purple blossom-bedecked trees, which line its thoroughfares, Pretoria is a lovely, quiet city. It has a long, involved and fascinating history. Here you will find significant old buildings and fascinating museums. The Transvaal Museum has natural history displays and is the home of Mrs Ples, the australopithecine fossil found at Sterkfontein in the Cradle of Humankind. The Cradle of Humankind Site comprises a strip of a dozen dolomitic limestone caves containing the fossilised remains of ancient forms of animals, plants and most importantly, hominids. The dolomite in which the caves formed, started out as coral reefs growing in a warm shallow sea about 2.3 billion years ago. Also worth visiting are the Cultural History Museum and Smuts Museum in Irene, outside Pretoria.

Pretoria functions as one of three capitals of South Africa with a population that exceeds a million people, the bulk of whom are government officials. The city center is laid out in typical city fashion on a grid with wide roads, making getting around fairly simple.

Practically mandatory when visiting the city are the Pretoria Botanical Gardens, the Zoo, the Union Buildings and various museums and galleries that include Melrose House, the Pioneer Museum, Sammy Marks museum,

and the Voortrekker Monument. Outdoor activities include the Wonderboom and Groenkloof Nature Reserves, the Austin Roberts Bird Sanctuary, and a steam train ride around Pretoria.



Sandton

Despite Johannesburg city centre doing its utmost to change perceptions about its capacity to function as the heart of the city, Sandton continues to reign as the most important financial and business district in South Africa, and arguably sub-Saharan Africa. Known as 'Africa's richest square mile', Sandton has headed upward with a barrage of Manhattan-style skyscrapers that function as landmarks throughout Johannesburg, particularly Sandton City's pyramid-style rooftop. Nelson Mandela Square, various art galleries, or going on a personal walking tour that takes in 29 Sandton landmarks and stopping off at various restaurants are amongst the attractions of the area.

Randburg

Randburg is a large city in Gauteng. Once a separate municipality, its municipal government has since become a part of the City of Johannesburg. Randburg has over 32 suburbs, most of them residential. It is an up-market area filled with many family friendly entertainment facilities and park like areas.



The residents in Randburg tend to be more affluent than most Johannesburg dwellers. Here one will witness large lavish homes and an abundance of boutiques. In fact, Randburg is well known for its plethora of shopping centers and entertainment areas, including the Brightwater Commons, Cresta Centre, NorthGate, Sanlam Shopping Centre and various others.

Another fantastic attraction is the Lion Park. This superb lion park features 4 prides of lions of various ages as well as a number of rhino and other herbivores. The lions are enclosed in a high-security area while the greater park area is given over to the other animals.

Midrand

Midrand is located in the Johannesburg metropolis in Gauteng, South Africa. The name Halfway House is suitable as it is half way between The Rand and Pretoria. Midrand is identified as one of the 8 tourism nodes in the Johannesburg area and home to large-scale industries such as textiles and motor vehicles.

Midrand is relatively modern and has experienced a great deal of growth in the last decade. Many businesses have relocated to Midrand due to its proximity to excellent highway links and its location in the economic center of Gauteng Province.

Midrand is an accurate reflection of current economic expansion of Gauteng. Home to large-scale industries such as textiles and motor vehicles, it is a superbly located business venue.

Soweto

South of Johannesburg is Soweto, a city of over two million inhabitants that developed as a township for black people under the apartheid system. Most of the struggle against apartheid was fought in and from Soweto. The name Soweto is an acronym, made up - in apartheid days - from the first letters of the words "south western township".

Soweto is a city of enterprise and cultural interaction; the home of former President Nelson Mandela, the Hector Pieterse Memorial site, restaurants and shopping malls.

Other attractive sights are residences of famous anti-apartheid activists. In Orlando, the first township of Soweto, you can visit Nelson Mandela's first house which is a popular tourist attraction. Also the mansion belonging to Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Archbishop Desmond Tutu's house, the Sisulu residence and the Hector Pieterse memorial museum are in the same neighbourhood.



Despite their poverty, these people have managed to build a strong sense of community. They remain in Johannesburg in search of the elusive gold. Many of these places have been named after the icons

of the struggle who have since left in response to the beckoning of upward mobility. One such settlement is the Mandela squatter camp some seven kilometres from Baragwanath hospital.

East Rand

Gauteng's East Rand has not always had top billing. For most who visit Gauteng, it pales by comparison with the hectic pace, glitz, glamour and nightlife of Jozi.

But the little towns of Alberton, Benoni, Boksburg, Brakpan, Edenvale, Germiston, Springs, Kempton Park and Nigel are collectively known as Ekurhuleni Metropolitan. The Ekurhuleni's borders encompass the vibrant townships of Daveyton, Katlehong, Vosloorus and Wattville (to name but a few).

Visit the Thokoza Memorial wall, Khumalo Street in Thokoza to honour thousands of the victims who died during the struggle. Alberton's Meyersdal Koppie Nature Reserve is home to Late Iron-Age stone wall settlements, whilst Boksburg boasts numerous beautiful old heritage sites – the old law courts, the post office, St Michael and All Angels Anglican church, designed by Sir Herbert Baker.

Benoni, known as the 'city of lakes' encourages picnics at no fewer than five lake sides, whilst the Rietvlei Zoo and Nature Reserve, just outside Alberton, and the Rondebult Bird Sanctuary - a rare wetland area with



amazing bird hides and access to antelope, ostrich and zebra - both make wonderful day trips.

West Rand

The West Rand grew out of the discovery of gold in the area, although a greater part of this area remains rural and largely unspoilt, encompassing some of Gauteng's most beautiful scenery and enviable weather. Two mountain ranges, the Magaliesberg and the Witwatersberg, grace the western fringes of the region, which, when combined with the Skeerpoort and Crocodile River valleys, makes for beautiful and interesting hikes, rock climbs and days out in nature.

The appealing Crocodile Ramble that meanders in and around the Cradle of Humankind and Hartbeespoort Dam, offers a series of art studios and galleries, pubs, tea gardens, nurseries, picnic and camping spots, bird walks, 4x4 trails, hiking and horse trails and a heritage tour and starts a mere 45 minutes from Johannesburg.

On the eastern periphery of the stunning Magaliesberg Mountains you will find Hartbeespoort Dam, a major mecca for Gautengers and a hive of water activity over weekends. Despite this, there are still places of escape in around here, the small village of Magaliesberg - with its quaint little shops and vintage railway station - and beyond. This part of the world is given over largely to farms and smallholdings, many of which are now the abodes of artists and crafters; and the little village of Muldersdrift also serves as a launching pad to the Cradle of Mankind and the Sterkfontein Caves declared a World heritage site in 1999.

The Rhino and Lion Nature Reserve, the Wonder Cave, fish farms, steam train rides, trips to Soweto and the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Gardens are just a few of the wonderful attractions on the West Rand, and reason a plenty to visit.

Magaliesberg

The Magaliesberg Mountains are of the oldest in the world. They extend across Gauteng and the North West provinces west and north from Pretoria to just south of the Pilanesberg, and east of Pretoria to the Bronkhorstspuit Dam.

Formerly known as the Cashan Mountains the Magaliesberg stretch for over 120 kilometres, separating the highveld grasslands to the south, from the bushveld savannah of the north. Aside from their milestone age - they are a hundred



times older than Everest and half the age of the earth – these mountains and the surrounding area also possess a rich biodiversity, and the bird life in the mountains and the surrounds is almost unparalleled - 46.6% of Southern Africa's bird species live here.

The Magaliesberg region is recognized as the birthplace of mankind, and visitors from all over the world head to Maropeng, the visitor center at The Cradle of Humankind. Excavations continue to uncover ancient skeletons, like Little Foot – the nickname given to a nearly complete four million year-old Australopithecus fossil skeleton that still lies partially in breccia, under excavation.

Southern Gauteng

The Southern Gauteng region of Gauteng includes the town Walkerville, Meyerton, Heidelberg, the steel producing towns of Vereeniging and Vanderbijlpark and all their surrounding areas.

The Vaal River is the province's main water source and water sports playground and dominates the region. The Loch Vaal reservoir, built in 1922, is a water system that provides Southern Gauteng over a billion litres daily.

Rural Southern Gauteng is dominated by the Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve situated just to the West of Heidelberg. Suikerbosrand is an area of unspoilt highveld that covers some 13000 hectares. It is home to a wide variety of wildlife and includes 65 kilometres of roads.

There are more than 80 kilometres of hiking trails that are all well marked and the visitors' centre includes an auditorium where regular talks and seminars are held.



Northern Gauteng

Gauteng has no official regions, but for simplicity's sake is often divided into northern and southern Gauteng, which roughly corresponds to dividing the province up around the two major cities - Johannesburg to the south and Pretoria to the north.

Northern Gauteng is a charming combination of the Tshwane Metro

and the Metsweding region - a mix of pretty towns and rural communities, except for Pretoria - the administrative capital of the country.

Northern Gauteng includes Bronkhorstspuit, Cullinan, Centurion, Hammanskraal, Mamelodi, Pretoria and Midrand, and other suburbs and towns like Irene, Leeuwkloof Valley and Rayton. The main appeal for selecting northern Gauteng as a place to stay is the combination of easy access to Johannesburg and the attraction of small town living. For many a traveller this is preferable to the chronic buzz of Jozi, no matter how it draws those who seek the thrill of big cities.

From the quaintness of Cullinan, still seeped in the Victorian era, the leafy attractiveness of Irene, where you can visit the local dairy farm, to the farming community of Bronkhorstspuit, home to the Nan Hua Buddhist Temple, there is an incredible diversity on offer.

Even the more commercial centres of Midrand and Centurion have something to proffer. This part of the country presents an incredible range of activities and places to visit, and good food and hospitality are high on the list of priorities.



Dinokeng

Marketed as the place the world's largest diamond was discovered because of its proximity to Cullinan, Dinokeng lies about 45 minutes' north-east of Johannesburg, and a mere 14 minutes from Pretoria / Tshwane.

Referring to an area, rather than a particular town, Dinokeng is part of an initiative by the government to establish a tourist destination close to urban Gauteng that lies roughly in the catchments area of two rivers - the Elands and Pienaars - that subsequently flow into the greater Olifants and Limpopo Rivers.

The land has witnessed a number of different cultures, which together form something of a melting pot of history. The Tswana, Pedi, Afrikaans, Ndebele, English and Tsonga-speaking people have all had significant effects upon the land and rolling grasslands of Dinokeng; and Anglo-Boer War blockhouses, battle sites, cemeteries and forts are all evidence of the conflicts that have left their mark.

There is a lot to do and see in the Dinokeng Region. Three dams lie in the area - Mkhombo, Rust de Winter and Roodeplaat; the historic homes of the Sammy Marks Museum, the village of Rust de Winter, and what remains of the Wallmansthal Mission all reflect the old ways of life; whilst Dinokeng is one of the country's prime bird watching areas, second only to Ndumo in the St Lucia area in terms of the diversity of species.

The Dinokeng Game Reserve, part of the government's initiative, is run by a non-profit company and combines about 270 property-owners' land in what will be a 90 000 hectare game reserve that offers Big Five game viewing, a wealth of archaeological sites that take visitors back to the Stone Age, and a unique cultural experience in the form of art and craft studios for local artisans.

www.sa-venues.com
www.localgovernment.co.za