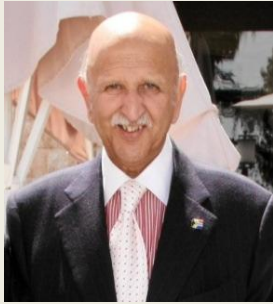




# Mzansi News



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The year 2010 will be remembered as the year of KE NAKO, Celebrating Africa's Humanity as South Africa played host to the FIFA World Cup football tournament, the first time the tournament was hosted on African soil.

South Africa will also remember 2010 as the year in which much emphasis was placed on working towards building and strengthening the country's economy despite the challenges faced by the world economic crisis. The work done, amongst others, by the National Planning Commission and the Office of the Minister of Economic Development, together with the recent Cabinet re-shuffle, is testimony to the Government's commitment to changing the lives of ordinary citizens for the better.

The announcement of South Africa's election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council is a big honour and South Africa has committed itself again towards the advancement of international peace and security. South Africa is proud to constitute, together with India, Brazil and others, the recently elected non-permanent membership of the Security Council.

The progress achieved toward better service delivery by many role-players in South Africa has been noted in the number of satisfied clients of especially the Department of Home Affairs in the processing of personal documentation. In order to improve on service delivery, the Department of Home Affairs requests that all South Africans travelling abroad should register with [ROSA](#) in their own interests.

In this respect, I particularly pay tribute to our colleague Mr Simon Modiba, the Department of Home Affairs representative. He has been an absolute pillar of strength during his tenure. His dedication to the Batho Pele (people first) service delivery principles is well-known and respected. We would like to wish Simon and his family well with the new chapter in their lives back in South Africa.

As we bid farewell to Simon, we welcome Ms Patiwe Mokoena and her family who recently joined us as First Secretary in the political section.

This year, the Embassy's work revolved around a magnitude of interactions with many partners and I would like to recognise, and thank, all our friends for the fruitful cooperation and discussions in working together on so many important issues of mutual interest and concern. In recognition of such useful cooperation I trust our productive interactions will continue in the future. Here I would like also to mention the visit to Israel, as part of a visit to the Middle Eastern region in April/May, by the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Ebrahim Ebrahim.

In a broader context, the year 2010 has witnessed many international dramatic events, both positive and tragic. We honour the memory of those who paid the highest price in the service of their fellow human beings. The unity of purpose amongst the populations of so many countries was truly inspiring and bodes well for the potential of humanity to improve the lives of everybody, irrespective of creed and nationality.

The Embassy could not have worked as smoothly as it does without the dedication and commitment of the Embassy staff and I would like to thank each and everyone for his/her contribution during the past year. You flew the South African flag with dedication and professionalism.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a blessed Festive Season. Our wish is that 2011 will see a continuation of cooperation and interactions between the Embassy, its colleagues and friends.

# South Africa's Commitment to International Peace and Security

South Africa was re-elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the period 2011/12. South Africa first served in this capacity during the period 2007/08.

In her response to its re-election, International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) Minister, Ms Nkoana-Mashabane, on behalf of President Zuma, the government and the people of South Africa, placed on record South Africa's gratitude towards the members of SADC, African Union and the United Nations for the trust and confidence placed in South Africa's ability to advance the African Agenda of achieving peace, security and development, including respect for human rights.

Minister Nkoana-Mashabane indicated that "South Africa is humbled, and at the same time delighted by the overwhelming support it received from the Member States of the United Nations during these elections. The confidence of the Member States and the international community at large in our ability to contribute and further advance the cause of international peace and security and international law during our tenure on the Security Council is indeed reflected in the huge support expressed in the 182 votes we were able to receive".

The Charter of the United Nations bestows on the Security Council the high responsibility "for the maintenance of international peace and security" and South Africa will, in the execution of these responsibilities play her part, as a responsible member, in answering this high calling by giving effect to the purpose and principles of the UN Charter.

South Africa has been and will continue to be committed "to promoting effective partnership between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations, in particular the African Union Peace and Security Council, in the maintenance of international peace and security. We will continue to work tirelessly toward improving the working methods of the UNSC to make it more legitimate, representative and more effective". In this respect, "we would be among those who promote greater consultation with member states in the conduct of the work of the Council. South Africa will continue to place emphasis on the promotion of issues affecting women, children, who are the most victims in conflict areas".

Dr. Ayanda Ntsaluba, DIRCO's Director General during a press conference following the announcement, said that Africa remained confident that the next two years might signal radical reforms in the United Nations Security Council and South Africa is of the opinion that there would be challenges to this effect. Furthermore, he indicated that a call for the UNSC's reform encompassed five key issues, including categories of membership, the question of the veto held by the five permanent members, regional representation, the size of an enlarged Council and its working methods.

The Permanent Representatives of IBSA, in a [statement](#) following the election, noted that as countries of the global South, India, Brazil and South Africa would, as a highest priority, promote the principles and objectives of the South on the Security Council including work to make the Security Council more transparent in its working methods and promote and enhance the Security Council's cooperation with regional organisations, particularly the African Union's Peace and Security Council.

Source: [DIRCO](#)

Photo: United Nations

## South African finance sector in good health: IMF

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund have given South Africa's financial sector the thumbs-up following an assessment of the country's adherence to international banking, insurance and securities markets regulatory standards.

The Report on Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSC) was compiled by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in terms of their Financial Sector Assessment Programme (FSAP), South African National Treasury Spokeswoman Kershia Singh said in a [statement](#).

The ROSC assesses countries' financial Stability and compliance in terms of three key standards: the Basel Core Principles for banking supervision; International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) principles for securities markets regulation; and Insurance Core Principles of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) for insurance regulation.

The Financial Stability Board had concluded that South Africa's authorities adhered to regulatory and supervisory standards on international co-operation and information exchange, she said.

[Read more...](#)

Source: [southafrica.info](http://southafrica.info)

## South Africa plans development aid agency

South Africa is set to create a development aid agency as it seeks to play a more prominent role as a major donor country in Africa.

International Relations and Cooperation Minister, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, made the announcement at a regional heads of mission conference in Nairobi, Kenya, during a three-day foreign policy session.

Minister Nkoana-Mashabane indicated that the South African Partnership Agency, which has already been approved by Cabinet, will operate along the same lines as USAid, an initiative that provides developing countries with funding for economic and humanitarian projects as part of the US's foreign policy objectives.

“The agency will not only enhance our contribution in institutional and capacity building on the continent, but also ensure that our post-conflict reconstruction and development efforts are centrally co-ordinated,” Minister Nkoana-Mashabane said. [Read more....](#)

Source: [southafrica.info](http://southafrica.info)



South Africa's monetary systems are robust and well-regulated, easily matching world standards of sophistication  
(Image: <http://www.savant.co.za/>)

# South Africa's coastline sparkles!

Twenty-seven South African beaches have been awarded international Blue Flag status for 2010/11 for excelling in safety, cleanliness, provision of amenities and maintenance of environmental standards. It started in France in 1985.

[Blue Flag](#) gives local and foreign visitors the assurance that their beaches are clean, environmentally sound and adhere to international safety and other tourist standards.

When South Africa joined the campaign in 2001 as the first country outside Europe to participate, Blue Flag began to grow into a truly international campaign.

The voluntary eco-label is given to beaches that meet 14 criteria spanning three aspects of coastal management: water quality, environmental education and information, and safety and services, which include excellent life-saving standards, top-rate parking and sparkling ablution facilities.

Local authorities report a number of spin-offs from being awarded Blue Flag status, including an increase in visitors, improved behaviour on the part of beach-goers, property prices rising for homes near Blue Flag beaches – and visitors enjoying a well cared-for and managed beach.

The Blue Flag is awarded for one year only. Twenty-nine South African beaches were awarded Blue Flag status in 2009, 19 in 2008, 18 in 2007, 20 in 2006, 20 in 2005, 14 in 2004, eight in 2003, eight in 2002, and four in 2001.

Blue Flag is managed in South Africa by the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa, in partnership with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and participating coastal authorities under the Department's Coast Care programme. Coast Care gives financial and technical help for coastal development and research services. [Source: southafrica.info](http://southafrica.info)



# South Africa launches space agency

South Africa's new national space agency will coordinate the country's major space projects, promote space science research, develop related engineering and technological capacity, and devise and implement a national space programme.

South Africa has some of the best space infrastructure in Africa, and is already heading some notable space projects, including Africa's bid to host the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), the Southern African Large Telescope, and the SumbandilaSat satellite.

The South African Space Agency (Sansa) will become the umbrella body that coordinates all these projects, while integrating the country's existing science and technology institutions, such as the Satellite Applications Centre run by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research at Hartebeesthoek, west of Pretoria.

Speaking at the launch of the agency and the National Space Strategy in Johannesburg on 9 December 2010, Science and Technology Minister Naledi Pandor said the space industry had enormous potential for growth.

Space science and technology were significant contributors to sustainable development on the African continent, and the South African Space Agency had a crucial role to play in this, Minister Pandor said.

Growing South Africa's space capabilities would not only be of huge value to the scientific community in the southern African region, but would also help in addressing the challenges of health care provision, water resources, agricultural mapping, and urban planning and communications.

The South African Space Agency would help develop a formal space programme over the next five years, Pandor said. It will promote research in the areas of astronomy, earth observation, communications, navigation and space physics, while growing scientific, engineering and technological competencies through human capital development and outreach programmes.

The agency will also promote cooperation on space-related projects between South Africa and the international community, with an eye to fast-tracking South Africa's role in international space activities. During the launch, Sansa signed memorandums of understanding relating to data access with Brazil's National Institute for Space Research and the China Centre for Resources Satellite Data and Application.

According to the International Astronautical Federation, there are about 74 companies that trade in the aerospace and defence sector in South Africa. In October 2011, the federation will hold its 62nd International Astronautical Congress in Cape– the first time the event will take place on African soil.

In September this year, the South African Astronomical Observatory in Cape Town was chosen to host the International Astronomical Union's Office for Astronomy Development, which will play a key role in taking astronomy to the developing world. South Africa beat about 20 countries in its bid to host the office, which will play a central role in coordinating and managing the organisation's educational activities, as well as in recruiting and mobilising volunteers. [Read more...](#)

Source: [southafrica.info](http://southafrica.info)



Three of the seven antennas of the KAT-7 demonstrator radio telescope outside Carnarvon in the Northern Cape province. The KAT-7 is paving the way for the 80-dish Karoo Array Telescope also known as the MeerKAT), due to be commissioned in 2014/15 as a precursor to the SKA – and as one of the most powerful telescopes in the world. (Photo: [SKA South Africa](#))

## SA's MeerKAT in High Demand

MeerKAT is SA's precursor telescope to the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) and will consist of 64 dishes, each 13.5m in diameter. It will be built in the radio astronomy reserve near Carnarvon in the Northern Cape over the next five years. An engineering test bed of seven dishes (KAT-7) has already been complete.

Five years before South Africa's MeerKAT telescope becomes operational, more than 43 000 hours of observing time (adding up to about five years) have already been allocated to radio astronomers from Africa and around the world, who have applied for time to do research with this unique and world-leading instrument. Surveys of radio pulsars and hydrogen gas in the deep universe came out on top in the first round of allocating MeerKAT's observing time.

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Source: [southafrica.info](http://southafrica.info)

## Blast Off For Space Weather Centre

South Africa's space weather centre, one of 13 in the world, has been opened in the Western Cape. There are hopes the facility will improve the country's position in the global space sector and enable it to achieve its space-related ambitions.

The centre, located at the [Hermanus Magnetic Observatory](#), was opened by Minister of [Science and Technology](#) Naledi Pandor on 10 December 2010.

The department said the centre has been "designed to fulfil international requirements and provide a superior-class facility for space weather forecasts, predictions and warnings".

"This centre will contribute essential information for global space science and technology, as well as forecasts and predictions to protect our growing and future satellite industry," said Minister Pandor in her speech.

The regional space weather warning centre for Africa has been running at the Hermanus Magnetic Observatory for years now, and the new centre will help it expand its services. An area within the existing observatory was renovated to the tune of R1.6-million (US\$234 000) to create the dedicated space weather centre. [Read more...](#)

Source: <http://wwmedioclubsouthafrica.com/>

# 2010 WORLD CUP LEGACY

## 2010 FIFA WORLD CUP LEGACY TRUST

Following a meeting with President Jacob Zuma on 13 December 2010, FIFA President Sepp Blatter presented the 2010 FIFA World Cup Legacy Trust at Soccer City in Johannesburg.

This trust will support a wide range of public benefit initiatives in the areas of football development, education, health and humanitarian activities in South Africa.

The trust amounts to USD 100 million, USD 80 million of which is being allocated directly to social community projects.



South African President Jacob Zuma and Fifa President Sepp Blatter at the launch of the 2010 Fifa World Cup Legacy Trust, Johannesburg, 13 December 2010

(Photo:[The Presidency](#))

“We have always said that the first FIFA World Cup on African soil should leave a lasting sports and social legacy once the tournament is over. This trust is yet another concrete achievement in this area,” said the FIFA President.

“We achieved our goals with regard to the successful hosting of the FIFA World Cup event. Now remains the difficult but most important task of ensuring a lasting legacy and building world-class national teams both at youth and senior level. The FIFA World Cup Legacy Trust which is being launched today is an important contribution to the achievement of that goal,” said President Jacob Zuma. Source: [southafrica.info](http://southafrica.info)

## World Cup 'worth every cent'

More than 95% of the more than 309 000 tourists to South Africa say would visit the country again. Together, they spent some R3.6-billion, during their stay. Commenting on a study of the impact of the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ on South Africa's tourism industry, Tourism Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk noted that the event was worth every cent invested in it.

The study revealed a radical change in attitudes displayed by foreigners towards South Africa, with those attending matches at stadiums being happy with the country's security personnel and hospitality.

The total expenditure in South Africa by tourists who came specifically for the tournament was R3.64-billion, with Europeans leading the pack, followed by the United States. The overall average spend per tourist was R11 800, which was higher than the average tourist spend of R8 400 in 2008.

# "We Are Responsible"

During South Africa's 2010 World Aids Day Campaign entitled "**We Are Responsible**", Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, chairperson of the South African National Aids Council, visited families and addressed community members and Health care workers in Driefontein in Mpumalanga.

South Africa also noted the report released by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/Aid (UNAids) which highlights that South Africa has decreased the rate of new HIV infections in the country by more than one-third over the past 10 years, contributing to a significant slowing down or stabilising of new HIV infections worldwide.

The 2010 World Aids Day campaign encouraged people to show collective responsibility to encourage and support partners, family and community members to test voluntarily for HIV and to set an example for others by leading healthier lifestyles.

From 2001 to 2009, the report finds, the rate of new HIV infections stabilised or decreased by more than 25% in at least 56 countries, including 34 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

"In South Africa, the rate of new HIV infections among 18-year-olds declined sharply, from 1.8% in 2005 to 0.8% in 2008, and among women aged between 15 and 24 years it dropped from 5.5% to 2.2% between 2003 and 2008."

Addressing residents of Driefontein, Deputy President Motlanthe said that 4.6-million South Africans have taken an HIV test since the launch of the government's HIV counseling and testing campaign in April, while 5.5-million have received counseling for HIV.

Furthermore, about 2.5-million of those tested were also screened for tuberculosis (TB), of whom 412 000 were referred for further diagnostic tests for the disease.

Deputy President Motlanthe indicated that in order to help reduce the number of babies born with HIV, "between April and September, 20 000 pregnant women were initiated on ARV treatment, compared to 15 000 during the same period last year.

"This represents a 28 percent increase in 2010 compared to 2009. We must therefore encourage pregnant women in our communities to seek care early during pregnancy, so that they and their children can avail themselves of the programmes that government is providing."

Source: [southafrica.info](http://southafrica.info)



South African Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe talks with residents of Driefontein, Mpumalanga on World Aids Day, 1 December 2010 (Photo: [GCS](http://GCS))

## South Africa secures cut-price anti-retroviral drugs

South Africa's HIV/Aids treatment programme has been given a shot in the arm with Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi's announcement that increased competition and economies of scale have enabled the government to procure R4.28-billion worth of anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs at less than half the cost of previous tenders.

The drugs will support the implementation of HIV/Aids treatment in the country for the next two years, effective from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2012.

"Early this year in my health budget speech I mentioned that the prices that South Africa pays for ARVs are significantly higher than in all other countries," he said in a statement this week. "The high price paid by South Africa was despite the fact that South Africa has the largest ARV programme in the world. [Read more...](#)

## South Africa secures new Benz contract

Mercedes-Benz South Africa has announced that it will be one of the manufacturers of the next generation C-Class, and will invest a further R2-billion in its East London plant in order to produce the luxury sedan, which will hit global markets in 2014.

"Daimler AG is delighted to include South Africa among the four manufacturing locations around the world to build the next-generation C-Class – the most popular model within the Mercedes-Benz passenger cars range," Wolfgang Bernhard, board member of Daimler AG, the parent company of Mercedes-Benz South Africa (MBSA), said in a statement.

"This success is not least due to the great efforts of the East London plant's team and its stringent application of the Mercedes-Benz production system with its robust processes and rigorous quality standards."

The Mercedes-Benz plant in East London has repeatedly been recognised for its excellent production quality by JD Power and Associates, and is one of the best manufacturing plants in the industry.

"We have had immense success in South Africa with the C-Class, and we have exported to left-hand drive markets since 1998 and to right-hand drive markets since 2000," MBSA chief executive Hansgeorg Niefer said, adding that he was delighted with the announcement and the "vote of confidence" in the local operations. This confidence was also underscored by the fact that, according to Mr Niefer, the plant in East London followed global processes and standards outlined in the company's production system for all its passenger car plants.

The R2-billion investment is expected to further enhance the positive economic impact of Mercedes-Benz's activities in South Africa, both directly through its own operations as well as indirectly through component suppliers. [Read More...](#)

Source: [southafrica.info](http://southafrica.info)



**Mercedes-Benz manufactures the C-Class luxury sedan, for both the domestic market and for export, at its plant outside East London** (Photo: [Daimler AG](#))

## Ford's investment



**A Ford Ranger pickup truck. The Ford Motor Company of South Africa has invested R3-billion in its plant outside Pretoria to produce the new Ranger, codenamed T6** (Photo: [Ford Motor Company of Southern Africa](#))

Ford said it was investing more than R3-billion in the Struandale engine plant in Port Elizabeth for the Puma engine, as well as in the Silverton assembly plant in Pretoria for the production of the new-generation Ranger compact pick-up – with most of the capacity destined for export markets when the projects came on line in 2011.

"Ford has made an important investment in South Africa, and as my role is to promote more investment and trade between our two countries, I wanted to see the progress first hand," Gips said. "It has been a wonderful experience to witness the transformation of the Struandale engine [Please read more...](#)

Source: [southafrica.info](http://southafrica.info)

# South Africa sets targets for 2011 climate talks

South Africa, as incoming President of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), will host the 17<sup>th</sup> UNFCCC Conference in Durban, South African from 28 November to 9 December 2011.

Outlining the outcomes of the Cancun conference, South African Water and Environmental Affairs Minister Edna Molewa said the conference had been unable to answer many "difficult political questions."

The United Nations climate change summit in Cancun, Mexico reached a number of agreements while failing to resolve key issues, leaving South Africa, host of the 2011 conference, with a lot of hard work to do.

"South Africa has an immense amount of work to do in order to move forward from Cancun to Durban," Minister Molewa told journalists. "Our challenge is to address the unresolved issues while at the same time ensuring that the agreements made in Cancun are further developed and elaborated."

In January 2011, the South African government will launch a comprehensive consultation programme, including all stakeholders, in order to develop a shared vision for the Durban conference, Minister Molewa said.

At the talks in Mexico, South Africa, along with developing countries in Africa, had called for a two-track legally binding outcome regarding the Kyoto Protocol. [Read more...](#)

Source: [southafrica.info](http://southafrica.info)

## SA launches climate research centre

South Africa has launched the Africa Centre for Climate and Earth Systems Science (ACCESS) , which will provide Regional decision-makers with reliable climate information, enabling them to balance developmental needs with Responses to threats posed by environmental change.

ACCESS is a consortium of research institutions and agencies that have signed up to contribute to a whole greater than the sum of its parts.

These include the Universities of the Witwatersrand, Cape Town, Western Cape, Pretoria, Stellenbosch, KwaZulu-Natal and Rhodes, along with the SA Weather Service, SA Biodiversity Institute, Agricultural Research Council, Geosciences Research Council, SA Environmental Observation Network, and the hosts of the centre, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

The secretariat will be set up at the Center for High Performance Computing at the CSIR Campus in Rosebank, Johannesburg. [Read more...](#)

Source: [southafrica.info](http://southafrica.info)

Wishing You and  
Yours Health,  
Happiness and  
Peace



H.E. Ambassador Ismail Coovadia, Ms Suraya Bhoola  
and staff at the South African Embassy  
Ramat Gan - Israel

*Happy Holidays*  
*December 2010/January 2011*

