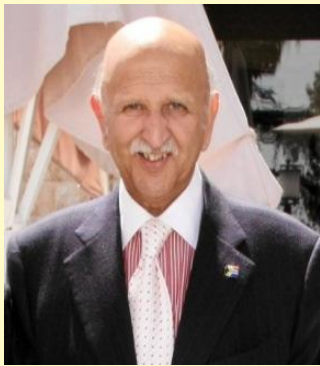




# Mzansi News



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Welcome to another exciting edition of Mzansi News.

As you will appreciate, there is so much that has happened not only in South Africa but all around the world in an attempt to change the lives of everyone for the better. From a South African perspective, a few highlights come to mind.

The most important is the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP17/CMP7) scheduled to take place from 28 November – 9 December 2011 in Durban, Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa.

There is no doubt that the meeting will be crucial, but as the South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana Mashabane has said recently, “it is clear that Durban is the end of the line for some of these pressing climate change issues and we cannot delay it any longer.” Let us all support a common position which will benefit our most precious possession - Mother Earth!

During the past few months, South Africa celebrated Women’s month (August) and Heritage month (September). We salute the generations of women who played, and are still playing, such a substantial and positive role in the well-being of South Africa as a united nation.

The Heritage month celebrations focussed, very appropriately, on the reconnection of South Africans with its rich and diverse, yet collective, liberation struggle. Therefore this year’s theme for the event was “Celebrating the Heroes and Heroines of the Liberation Struggle in South Africa.”

September is also Tourism month in South Africa and in this edition you will find a number of items which will showcase why South Africa is such a popular tourism destination and the impact thereof on the South African economy and its development. Looking into the future, you will also be informed of the decision for South Africa to host the International Small Business Congress (ISBC) in 2012.

Let me conclude by quoting former President Mandela, “It always seems impossible until it’s done.” Therefore my message: Let us together tackle what seems to be impossible by changing the lives of ordinary people for the better. One of the best ways is to start to think and live “green”.

Ismail Coovadia  
AMBASSADOR

# CHANGING THE WORLD FOR THE BETTER



United States President Barack Obama, Philippines President Benigno Aquino and South African President Jacob Zuma at the Open Government Partnership launch, New York, 20 September 2011 (Photo: [GCIS](#))

**President Jacob Zuma** joined 45 other world leaders on 20 September 2011 in formally launching the Open Government Partnership (OGP), a new international initiative aimed at securing concrete commitments from governments, in partnership with civil society. The objective of OGP is to promote transparency, increase civic participation, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance.

During the launch, the eight OGP steering committee governments – the US, Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, South Africa and the UK – delivered their OGP action plans. [Read more...](#)

**Statement by President Jacob Zuma to the General Debate of the 66th United Nations General Assembly, UN Headquarters, New York.** [Read more...](#)

[Commonwealth News](#)

Source: [DIRCO](#)

**South Africa hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> India, Brazil, South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Summit (17 – 19 October 2011).** [Read President Zuma's Opening Remarks](#)

**Address** by His Excellency, President of the Republic of South Africa, Dr. Jacob Zuma on Aspects of South African Foreign Policy at the University of Pretoria. [Read more...](#)



**South African Government Statement on the Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question.**

Source: [DIRCO](#)

# CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (COP17/CMP7)

## INFORMAL MINISTERIAL CONSULTATIONS ON COP17,

South Africa is hosting the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC from 28 November – 9 December 2011 in Durban, Kwa-Zulu Natal. In preparation for the Conference, President Zuma addressed an Informal Ministerial Consultations gathering in Pretoria on 9 September. Those who attended the gathering included 21 environmental ministers, accompanied by negotiators and delegates from 43 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) member states. [Read more...](#)

Sources: [The Presidency](#) and [southafrica.info](#)

**PRESS STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION, MS MAITE NKOANA-MASHABANE, FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF PRE-COP MINISTERIAL MEETING, 21 OCTOBER 2011.**

[Read more...](#)



Right: Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane with UNFCCC Executive Secretary Ms Christiana Figueres during a press conference after the Pre COP17 Ministerial meeting. [Photo DIRCO:](#)

**An African Ministerial Conference on Climate-Smart Agriculture** was held in Johannesburg on 13 – 14 September 2011. [Read more...](#)

**Statement** by South African Minister Edna Molewa, Minister of Water & Environmental Affairs on South Africa's preparations for hosting of the UNFCCC COP17 on the occasion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Special Session of AMCEN, 16 September 2011. [Source...](#)



**COP17/CMP7**  
UNITED NATIONS  
CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2011  
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

# “YOU STRIKE A WOMAN, YOU STRIKE A ROCK “



The commemoration of the National Women's Day on 9 August 2011 took place at Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane, Limpopo. The theme for the event was "Working together to enhance women's opportunities to economic empowerment." President Jacob Zuma delivered the [keynote address](#) on this occasion. [National Department of Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities](#)

Women's Day Celebrations 9 August: Photo [GCIS](#) and [DIRCO](#)

## WOMEN'S MARCH TO THE UNION BUILDINGS

Women's Day commemorates the epic march on 9 August 1956 of 20 000 women to the Union Buildings in Pretoria, the seat of South Africa's government.

The women were protesting against the proposed amendments to the Urban Areas Act, commonly known as the pass laws of 1950.

The feisty group left bundles of petitions containing more than 100 000 signatures at the office doors of then-Prime Minister JG Strijdom and stood silently for 30 minutes outside his office.



Women's Day Celebrations 9 August: Photo [GCIS](#) and [DIRCO](#)

En route the women sang a protest song that was composed especially for the occasion and aimed at Strijdom - "Wathint' abafazi, wathint' imbokodo!" (You strike a woman, you strike a rock). [Read more...](#)

# HERITAGE MONTH



Acting President Kgalema Motlanthe addresses 2011 Heritage Day celebrations held at Gert Sibande District Municipality in Mpumalanga. Photo: Courtesy [GCIS](#)

[LISTEN TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL ANTHEM](#)

Source: [www.dac.gov.za](http://www.dac.gov.za)

**South Africa** has begun work on a series of museums and monuments, together forming a National Liberation Heritage Route, to honour the women and men who fought against apartheid. [Read more:](#)  
Source: [southafrica.info](http://southafrica.info)

**Acting President Kgalema Motlanthe** [addressed](#) the 2011 Heritage Day Celebrations held in Mpumalanga on 24 September 2011.

The aim of celebrating Heritage Month is to remind and reconnect South Africans with its rich and diverse collective liberation struggle. Therefore, the theme for this year's celebrations was "[Celebrating the Heroes and Heroines of the Liberation Struggle in South Africa](#)".

Heritage Month coincided with [Tourism Month](#) which is celebrated under the banner of international World Tourism Day 2011 theme of "Tourism Linking Cultures" and celebrates tourism's role in breaking down barriers across cultures and fostering tolerance, respect and mutual understanding. [Read more...](#)

Sources: [GCIS](#) and [National Heritage Council](#)

## [SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL SYMBOLS](#)

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



South Africa's coat of arms and national flag, and the country's national flower (king protea), bird (blue crane), tree (real yellowwood), and animal (springbok)  
Photos: [South African Government Online](#) / [South African Tourism](#))

# TOURISM MONTH

## THE LAUNCH OF SANMSRT

**The** South African National Minimum Standard for Responsible Tourism (SANMSRT) was launched on 12 September 2011. The SANMSRT has been benchmarked against the Global Sustainable Tourism Council's criteria and is based on the 3 cornerstones of sustainable tourism. These are social and cultural, economic, and environmental responsibility.

Responsible Tourism principles include respect for cultural and natural environments, avoiding energy and water over-consumption and waste, ensuring that local communities benefit from tourism, and adhering to ethical business practices.

The SANMSRT will be a voluntary standard. Tourism certification bodies wanting to be accredited will work through the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) which will be ready to carry out this task by the middle of 2012, according to the Minister of Tourism. [Source...](#)

## SOUTH AFRICA AND THE CAMPAIGN THAT REACHED MORE THAN 260 MILLION PEOPLE!

**On** 9 September 2011, South African Tourism won the prestigious M&M Global Award for Nation and Destination Branding for its "Adventures Wanted" campaign in partnership with National Geographic. The campaign reached more than 260 million people around the globe and ran on the National Geographic television channel and in the print media. South African Tourism's winning campaign featured an "adventure tribe" consisting of 7 people (one each from Australia, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, United States and United Kingdom) who visited South Africa for the adventure of a lifetime. Through their personal stories and images they were able to share their experiences. [Source...](#)

# TOURISM MONTH (Continued)

## LAUNCH OF NEW SOUTH AFRICAN AIRLINE

**It** is expected that the South African Taxi body Santaco's new low-cost airline will open up air travel to many South Africans previously unable to access it. These were some of the remarks by President Jacob Zuma during the launch of the airline at Lanseria Airport on Friday, 16 September 2011.

The airline is owned by over 10 000 taxi owners, making it one of the most broad-based black empowerment ventures in South Africa.

The airline will initially operate one or two flights a day between Lanseria and Bisho in the Eastern Cape, and then on to the Cape Town International Airport.

Its main target is Johannesburg customers, who often have to make a 14-hour road trip for a funeral in the Eastern Cape only to return five hours later. Commuters will be taken from Johannesburg taxi ranks to the airport and then transported to a taxi rank at their destination. **Source:**

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



Santaco Airlines will initially operate one or two flights a day between Lanseria in Gauteng and Bisho in the Eastern Cape  
(Photo: [GCIS](#))

## SOUTH AFRICA'S CONVENTION POTENTIAL

South Africa, through its planned new National Conventions Bureau, is aiming for a 50% increase in the number of international meetings hosted in the country by 2020. The draft South African Tourism Bill, published for comment by the Department of Tourism in August 2011, proposes the establishment of a National Conventions Bureau to co-ordinate the country's bidding for international meetings.

[Read more...](#)

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

# DOING BUSINESS

## SOUTH AFRICA IMPROVES COMPETITIVENESS

**The** World Economic Forum's (WEF's) latest Global Competitiveness Index was published in early September 2011.

In the report, South Africa improved its ranking to 50 out of 142 countries surveyed, while claiming top spot for regulation of exchanges and second place for soundness of banks.

The annual Global Competitiveness Report was first released in 1979 and has since evolved into the prime authority on relative competitiveness among most of the world's nations.

Respondent numbers have grown over the years, with the 2011-12 report covering 142 countries and some 14 000 respondents. [Read more:](#)  
[Source: www.southafrica.info](http://www.southafrica.info)

## SOUTH AFRICA TO HOST THE 2012 ISBC CONGRESS

**The** 2012 International Small Business Congress (ISBC) will be held in South Africa. It will be the first time since the inception of the meeting in 1974 that the ISBC will be held on African soil.

The theme for the event is "Fostering small business in new and high-potential industries worldwide", and will concentrate on getting SMEs involved with emerging industries with high-growth prospects.

[Read more...](#)

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

South Africa offers investors the stability of a developed country, the opportunities of a vibrant emerging market, and a climate that fosters growth (Photos: [Siemens South Africa](#) / [MediaClubSouthAfrica.com](#))

